Hafa Adai!

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13 DAYS left before the start of the new fiscal year

INSIDE

Self-Inflicted

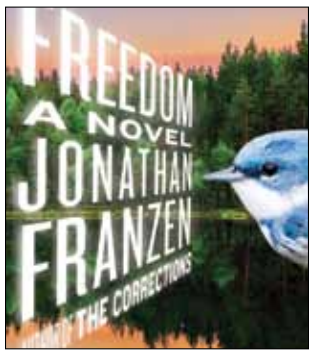
A woman who claimed an assailant threw acid on her face admits inflicting the attack on herself.

NATION...Page 10

Family Reunions

Officials cross into North Korea to discuss Pyongyang's proposal to resume family reunions.

ASIA...Page 12



New Selection

Oprah Winfrey has forgiven Jonathan Franzen, picking his new novel, "Freedom."

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Babauta: DHS weighing parole for Chinese, Russian tourists to Guam

»Guam, CNMI governors support Bordallo's bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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Reporter

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is examining the possibility of using its parole authority for Chinese and Russian visitors bound for Guam, Assistant Interior Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta told a congressional hearing in Washington, D.C. Thursday.

See BABAUTA on Page 4

From left to right, Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Howard Willens on behalf of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial of the CNMI, and Jim Beighley of the Guam Visitors Bureau provide testimony at yesterday's hearing.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Interior opposes Inos educational fellowship bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Assistant Interior Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta testified against CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's H.R. 4339, saying the proposed Dr. Rita Hocog-Inos Fellowship Act duplicates existing programs and that the U.S. Department of the Interior does not have the money funding for the undertaking.

Under Sablan's H.R. 4339, students from the CNMI would be given a paid

See INTERIOR on Page 4

ID theft ring suspects fall in roundup

By SAMANTHA HENRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP)—Federal authorities in New Jersey say they've broken up a large-scale identity theft and fraud ring that stretches from the insular Korean enclaves of northern New Jersey to Saipan, Guam, and American Samoa—all U.S. territories in the Pacific.

Fifty-three people, many of them Korean immigrants living in New York and New Jersey, are charged with helping

See ID THEFT on Page 4

AP

Suspects are escorted out of the FBI building to be transported to the Federal Courthouse after they were arrested as part of a bank fraud scheme, Thursday Sept. 16, 2010 in Newark, NJ.

Commerce gets $186,000 grant from Defense. PAGE 2
'Workforce, equipment are the solutions to water woes' PAGE 3

Local

PSS restores 88 teachers, counselors this school year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System restored 88 teacher and counselor positions this school year, thanks to the federal stimulus grants it got under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

Based on the latest CNMI report to the federal government, the 88 new teachers and counselors form part of the 105 positions that were restored under the state fiscal stabilization fund. These positions were cut in 2006 as a result of declining local revenues.

PSS stands to receive a total of $33.2 million in stimulus monies.

"We have hired 88 out of the 105 teacher and counselor positions as part of the restoration of teaching positions cut in previous years. The PSS requires that all classroom teachers possess at least a bachelor's degree in the subject area that they are assigned to teach," states the PSS application for phase 2 of the state fiscal stabilization fund.

The 105 teacher positions include the following:

■ Chacha Oceanview Junior High School needed three teachers for career technical education and two posts were filled;

■ Marianas High School needed two teachers for math, seven for CTE, one for language arts, and one counselor. All positions were filled;

■ Kagman High School needed four CTE teachers and one counselor. All positions were filled;

■ Saipan Southern High School needed eight: five CTE teachers, a technology teacher, a counselor, and a vice principal. PSS filled six;

■ Tinian Elementary School needs a counselor and a librarian. The positions remain unfilled;

■ Tinian Junior/High School has five FTEs: four for career technical education and one librarian. Four teachers were hired;

■ Sinapalo Elementary School has two FTEs that remain unfilled;

■ Rota Junior High School needed three CTE teachers and a librarian. All FTEs were filled;

■ Rota High School needs four CTE teachers and a Spanish teacher. PSS was able to fill only one teacher;

■ PSS also needs nine teachers for alternative education of which four have been hired while three FTEs remain unfilled for technical data systems, which include IT specialists; and

■ A career technical education specialist was also hired as part of the same funding source.

Degree holders

The same grant application reported that 182 of PSS teachers have a master's degree—31 percent of the teachers' population.

Those with doctoral degrees total five (1 percent) while 405 teachers—or 67 percent—have bachelor's degrees.

PSS reported that 57 of its teachers acquired their master's degrees through online courses in the last year.

"We attribute this large increase in part to the availability of the teacher grant program from the U.S. DOE and in part to our young teachers' desire to further their education," the PSS grant application stated.

As of last month, 77 percent of PSS teachers were deemed highly qualified.

Former NMC dean is Obama's appointee to advisory commission

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

A former official of the Northern Marianas College is among 18 individuals who were appointed by President Barack Obama to key administration posts.

Debra T. Cabrera joins 16 nominated members for the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, while two others are nominated for the Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy.

Cabrera served as a faculty member and earned recognition for teaching social sciences at the college before she became dean of Academic Programs and Services from 2008 to 2009.

After graduating from Mount Carmel High School, she studied at NMC for one year before pursuing a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Washington State University.

Cabrera holds an MA in Sociology from Ohio University and a PhD in Sociology from the University of Kentucky.

She became actively involved in community organizations like the NMI Council for Humanities where she served as the board chair.

At present, Cabrera serves as a social science faculty member at St. John's School in Tumon, Guam.

Aside from Cabrera, 15 more individuals will be appointed to the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

They are Sefa Aina, Kamuela J.N. Enos, Frances Eneski Francis, Farooq Kathwari, Hyeok Kim, Ramey Ko, Rozita Villanueva Lee, Sunil Puri, Amardeep Singh, Unmi Song, Dilawar A. Syed, Khampha Thephavong, Doua Thor, Hector L. Vargas, Jr., and Hines Ward.

Meanwhile, Ret. Admiral John B. Nathman, USN and Ret. Lt. Gen. Frank E. Petersen, USMC are appointee members for the Board of Visitors to the US Naval Academy.

"Our nation will be well-served by the skill and dedication these men and women bring to their new roles. I look forward to working with them in the months and years ahead," said the President in a statement.

Commerce gets $186,000 grant from Defense Department

Commerce Secretary Michael Ada has received approval for $186,000 that will be used to buy video teleconference equipment for the Military Integration Management Committee, as well coverage for MIMC members and staff to travel to Defense-related meetings.

The MIMC Policy Committee consists of the governor, lieutenant governor, Senate president, speaker of the House, and the mayors of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands.

The funding is being made available through the Department of Defense's Office of Economic Adjustment.

"The MIMC Coordinator, Mr. Tom Linden, has done a terrific job in working with our federal partners in identifying needs for the CNMI in relation to the military action in the CNMI. His foresight in understanding that VTC equipment would make the MIMC a more effective body is what prompted the CNMI Department of Commerce to request the funding," said Ada.

The VTC equipment will be installed at the Office of the Governor and at the Department of Commerce on Saipan, as well as at the mayor's offices on Tinian and Rota.

The MIMC is primarily responsible for coordinating all military related projects funded by the Department of Defense, and other federal agencies. The benefit this provides is a clear and defined group, through which all military buildup related issues can be addressed. It also provides a consistent body for each of the different Department of Defense representatives to effectively communicate with all the leaders in the CNMI.

Once installed, the VTC equipment will greatly reduce the amount of travel time and costs for the mayors of Tinian and Rota who frequently travel to Saipan for meetings regarding the military buildup.

The VTC system will not only be beneficial for interisland use in the CNMI, it will also allow the CNMI to have interactive meetings with Guam government officials, OEA officials in both Sacramento and Washington D.C., as well as Department of Defense offices in Guam such as Joint Region Marianas, Joint Guam Program Office and Naval Facilities Engineering Command.

Last month, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Linden, and Ada traveled to San Francisco to attend the American Defense Communities conference. Following Fitial's presentation and panel discussion at the conference, the group met with the Federal Regional Council for Region 9 to discuss a variety of issues relating the CNMI and Guam. The Office of Economic Adjustment regional director, Gary Kuwabara, introduced Fitial to the FRC.

"Our partnership with OEA has been one that has proven to be a critical step toward ensuring that local and federal relationships are strengthened. Our introduction to the FRC will be paramount to addressing many longstanding issues that have plagued our community. I am thankful to Mr. Kuwabara and OEA for being such a great federal partner. The most recent approval for our grant application will prove to be a huge benefit for the islands of Tinian and Rota," said Fitial. ***(PR)***

Military trainings set

SANTA RITA, Guam—The military will conduct training on Farallon de Medinilla on Sept. 22-27, from 5am to 11pm, and Sept. 28, from noon to 6pm, and on Warning Area-517 on Sept. 22, from 8am to 2pm.

The public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from these areas during the times and date indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Farallon de Medinilla's location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. The air and sea space in the Farallon also provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the CNMI.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. ***(PR)***

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Life in Motion

'Workforce, equipment are the solutions to water woes'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A Commonwealth Utilities Corp. official said yesterday that a long-term solution to Saipan's water problems could only be solved if manpower and equipment concerns are properly addressed.

CUC assistant executive director for operation Abe Utu Malae made the statement in light of existing water service interruptions and low water pressure in several villages on the island.

Malae earlier disclosed that the Koblerville area is the most affected due to downed wells in Obyan and Maui One. Major leaks identified in the area were expected to be fixed yesterday evening, based on CUC's timeline.

However, other areas like Dandan and San Vicente would continue to experience interrupted water service because of pipe problems, Malae said.

Tanapag residents had also recently complained of low water pressure. CUC has already tracked down and fixed several water leaks but admitted that these were only a "Band-Aid solution."

Malae said an adequate number of personnel and proper equipment are key to mapping out mid- to long-term solutions to the island's water problems.

Malae

"We could really use help from the same place where we got workers for the power plant. Those workers are on contract and they focus on work rather than personal or family commitments," said Malae.

CUC, which is in a state of emergency since 2008, hired nonresident skilled workers from the Philippines and American Samoa to fix issues with its power and water.

Immigration requirements are, however, hindering CUC's efforts to hire more skilled nonresident personnel. Even the idea of getting workers from American Samoa is a long shot.

"Yes, I have thought about that for a long time but then the American Samoa Power Authority is facing reliability problems too," Malae said.

He also cited the need for equipment like utility trucks. "We are renting vehicles starting tomorrow because we cannot afford to purchase new ones at this time," he said.

Meantime, Malae disclosed that they have already advertised, vetted, and are almost ready to make the selections for water and wastewater operators.

CUC has 146 wells, 16 storage tanks and reservoirs, and 18 booster stations on Saipan.

It has10,000 water customers on island.

Aguilar asked to explain why he should not be suspended

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has ordered attorney Danilo T. Aguilar to explain why he should not be suspended from practicing law after pleading guilty to two felony counts of laundering of money instruments in the District Court of Guam.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman on Thursday gave Aguilar 30 days to show cause why a suspension is unwarranted.

The Supreme Court of Guam recently ordered Aguilar's indefinite suspension from practicing law in Guam because of the conviction.

If Aguilar fails to respond to the show cause order, Wiseman said the federal court will impose the same sanction on him.

Aguilar has law offices in Guam and in the CNMI.

Aguilar agreed with the Guam Bar Ethics Committee's recommendation for his summary suspension.

Last Sept. 3, Aguilar pleaded guilty in the District Court of Guam and was sentenced to 60 months probation, full payment of restitution, among other terms and conditions.

The indictment was originally filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI. Aguilar and the U.S. government later agreed to transfer the case for change of plea and sentencing in Guam where he is staying.

The U.S. government accused the lawyer of taking $184,947.49 in proceeds from a fraudulent Citibank cashier's check.

The prosecution learned that Aguilar responded to an email solicitation, which turned out to be part of an international Internet fraud scheme from Hong Kong targeting attorneys. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

NMC honor students salute adviser, graduates

Members of Northern Marianas College's Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society recently paid special tribute to their faculty adviser and honored their 2010 graduates in a special celebration at the Saipan Grand Hotel.

In honor of his dedicated service to the organization, the honor students presented adviser Larry Lee with a plaque of appreciation that states: "As a token of our appreciation for all your dedication, support, understanding, kindness and friendship as our Advisor. Our moments together will always be cherished."

Lee also received recognition from the Phi Theta Kappa National Headquarters Center for Excellence's executive director Rod Risley. "We at Phi Theta Kappa's Center for Excellence owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our chapter advisers whose dedicated service is responsible for the success of our local chapters. We are proud to honor Mr. Larry Lee for 5 years of service as advisor of the Beta Lambda Psi Chapter at Northern Marianas College," Risley said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Present at the PTK event were, front row, from left, Robert Guerrero and Patricia Matagolai; middle row, from left, Mindy Park, Roxanne Ferrer, Larry Lee, Frances Santos-Hofschneider, and Albert Indalecio; back row, from left, Lauren Cundiff, Katie Cundiff, Josefa Untalan, Dyenina Diaz, Shannon Hofschneider, Mightee Kim, Yeji Yoon, and Glenn Songcuan.

An international organization, Phi Theta Kappa has recognized academic excellence, leadership, and service in two-year colleges since 1918. It is the largest honor society in American higher education with more than 1.5 million members and 1,200 chapters located in the 50 United States, U.S. territories, Canada, and Germany.

For additional information about the NMC chapter, membership, or activities, contact chapter president Glenn Songcuan, or Lee at 234-5498, ext 1811, or email larryl@nmcnet.edu. ***(PR)***

DPW exec charged with sex assault on WIA trainee

The Office of the Attorney General filed on Thursday four charges against a Department of Public Works' official who allegedly sexually assaulted a trainee of the Workforce Investment Agency.

The OAG charged DPW Technical Services Division director Joseph M. Inos Jr. with assault and battery, disturbing the peace, misconduct in public office, and false arrest.

The Superior Court summoned the 32-year-old Inos to appear and answer the charges in court on Sept. 27, 2010 at 9am.

Chief Prosecutor Michael L. Ernest stated in the charging information that on Aug. 16, 2010, Inos "unlawfully struck beat, wounded, or otherwise caused bodily harm, or had sexual contact" with a 17-year-old child.

Ernest said that Inos unlawfully detained the minor by force and against her will."

Saipan Tribune learned that the alleged offenses happened inside Inos' office at DPW. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Delegate bets to present plans for NMI retirement program

»Retirees association won't make any endorsement

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Candidates for this year's delegate election will meet with members of the Commonwealth Retirees Association next month to discuss their plans on how to improve the islands' retirement program.

CRA chair Juan Sablan said yesterday that three of the four candidates have so far accepted their invitation to speak before members on Oct. 12 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

The confirmed candidates include Republican Party nominee Juan N. Babauta, Democratic Party bet Jesus C. Borja, and incumbent delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan.

Covenant Party standard-bearer Joseph Camacho has yet to confirm his participation, according to Sablan.

He described the upcoming event as a "simple" meeting with the candidates where each one will be provided the floor to present their plans for the retirement system and its members.

Each speaker is expected to entertain questions of members after each presentation.

As of last month, the Fund had over $300 million in its investment fund. The Fund regularly withdraws money from its investments to pay for its pension obligations to members.

Its unfunded liability has skyrocketed to over $520 million. This means if the program is terminated now, the invested amount will not cover the benefits of all members.

"We need to hear what are the plans of our candidates for our retirement program. What possible help and assistance they could provide to us…if they're given the chance to sit as our representative to the U.S. Congress," said Sablan.

He said the group will, however, not endorse any candidate after the "special meeting."

On Thursday, Sablan, other members of the CRA board, and Fund administrator Richard Villagomez spoke with students at the Northern Marianas College to discuss the importance and impact of the two legislative initiatives that would be placed on the Nov. 2 ballot.

These include HLB 16-13, which prohibits any increase in retirement benefits until all government obligations to the Fund have been satisfied or the system is fully funded; and HLB 17-1, which would authorize the government to issue pension obligation bonds to pay its debt with the Fund.

The central government owes the Fund over $231 million in unpaid employer contributions.

According to Sablan, the association will conduct a general assembly on Sept. 23 at the multi-purpose center to update members and prepare for the special meeting with the candidates.

The NMI Retirement Fund has 6,584 members as of June this year. Of the figure, more than half—or 3,651—are active employees who are still contributing into the retirement plan. The rest are those receiving retirement benefits.

ID THEFT

From Page 1

people fraudulently obtain credit cards, bank accounts and loans using illegally obtained Social Security numbers.

Authorities say the alleged ringleaders operated a scheme to buy Social Security cards from brokers who fraudulently obtained them from Asian immigrants—mostly Chinese nationals—working in American territories, including Guam, American Samoa and Saipan.

They then resold the cards to Korean immigrants in the territorial U.S. who used them to apply for U.S. driver's licenses in California, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Nevada, New York and elsewhere. Several of the defendants then used their identifications to apply for credit cards. Some used all the credit they obtained, buying luxury goods such as vehicles, designer bags or liquor, some of it to resell.

"The activity in this instance was a virtual crime superstore, with one-stop shopping for a variety of criminal needs," said FBI Special Agent in Charge Michael B. Ward. "The criminal activity was sophisticated, and the extent of the fraud committed by this group is believed to be substantial, if not staggering."

Forty-seven defendants were arrested Thursday and another already is being detained by the state. Authorities still are trying to locate five defendants.

The one in state custody, Kang-Hyuk Choi, is in jail facing charges in the May 2008 triple murder of a Korean family in their home in Tenafly, New Jersey.

Choi is charged with killing his 27-year-old friend Han-Il Kim, then waiting hours in Kim's room before killing his mother and uncle.

Bergen County Prosecutor John Molinelli said Thursday that detectives investigating the murders believe Choi and Kim had been arguing over money from a similar identity and credit card scheme.

After authorities learned such schemes were widespread, the investigation expanded to include the FBI, the U.S. Attorney's Office and local law enforcement agencies, Molinelli said.

Choi was charged Thursday in a separate complaint with identity and credit fraud. It was not immediately clear if he had a lawyer.

Officials from the FBI and U.S. Attorney's office said Thursday that 43 of the defendants are charged with participating in a large-scale criminal enterprise of fraud and identity theft. Separately, 10 people are charged with similar offenses.

Authorities say the alleged ringleader, Sang-Hyun Park of Palisades Park, New Jersey, ran the operation by using shell businesses and advertising the sale of U.S. identity documents in local Korean-language newspapers.

Authorities say Park employed a staff that included identity document brokers, staffers that worked to increase credit limits and boost scores for customers using the fraudulently obtained credit cards, and local merchants who would swipe the cards at their businesses to get banks to transmit them money, according to court documents.

BABAUTA

From Page 1

This DHS parole policy is currently extended only to the CNMI, and there have been concerns that granting Guam the same will be a blow to the CNMI's tourism industry.

Chinese and Russian visitors are emerging tourist markets for the CNMI.

Babauta was one of those who testified on Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo's H.R. 6015.

The bill has two sections. The first one makes technical corrections to the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program.

The second one requires the director of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis to compute the gross domestic product reports for Guam, American Samoa, the CNMI, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and the Freely Associated States.

Bordallo is also the chair of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, which held the hearing.

During the hearing, Bordallo asked Babauta as to when DHS will exercise such granting of parole authority for visitors to Guam. She said this is "good news."

She asked whether it would take months or years, to which Babauta said, "I would hope it's not years."

Bordallo said she hopes Babauta will prevail upon DHS that such parole will help Guam.

CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho submitted separate testimonies supporting Bordallo's H.R. 6015, specifically the provision on the joint Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

Dededo Mayor Melissa B. Savares, who is the president of the Mayors' Council of Guam, also attended the hearing in support of Bordallo's H.R. 6015.

Fitial reiterated the CNMI's frustration with the exclusion of China and Russia from the list of approved countries in the joint Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

"As the Subcommittee knows, the Commonwealth and Guam believe that this decision was contrary to the legislative intent of the CNRA [Consolidated Natural Resources Act] and failed to acknowledge the importance of these two countries to the Commonwealth's tourism industry. We are still awaiting further action by DHS with respect to amending the Interim Final Rule, which we were advised several months ago might be made later this year," Fitial said in his 11-page testimony.

He said the CNMI supports Section 2(b) of H.R. 6015 and any other action by the Subcommittee that will encourage or require DHS to include China and Russia on the list of approved countries.

"We certainly believe that, in the absence of such final action, Guam should have the same benefits of the department's parole program as has been in place in the Commonwealth since the effective date of the CNRA on November 28, 2009," Fitial added.

But Fitial said a parole is viewed as a stop-gap measure.

"Although the CNMI welcomed the [DHS] Secretary's October 2009 decision to use its parole authority to admit tourists from China and Russia, it is not a substitute for issuance of final regulations including China and Russia on the approved list of countries for visa waiver," he added.

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho said since the enactment of Public Law 110-229 more than two years ago, the challenge of allowing nonimmigrant visas for Chinese tourists to Guam has been frustrating and discouraging.

He said this month, for instance, two charter flights had to be cancelled due to their inability to secure interview appointments with the U.S. Consulate serving Shenyang, China, despite requests for these appointments in advance.

"A fully implemented visa waiver policy would have made these two charters possible as the U.S. Congress had intended when it passed Public Law 110-229," Camacho said.

He said "more disheartening is the current bifurcated system in place" where Chinese and Russian tourists visiting the CNMI are allowed a less onerous visa entry permit than those who wish to visit Guam.

"This policy is clearly at odds with the intent of the U.S. Congress to have a unified immigration and visa waiver policy for the Marianas, and for the region as a whole to have the same and equal access to source markets," he added.

Lamonte J. Beighly, vice chair of the Guam Visitors Bureau, echoed Camacho's concerns.

He said although DHS deemed China and Russia as being of significant economic benefit, the uncertainty surrounding the parole program and its confusing nature for tourists and tourism professionals deters investment and marketing potential.

"In sum, it does not make sense to have one system in the CNMI and another in Guam. While we are grateful to Secretary Napolitano and her colleagues at DHS for extending parole authority to the CNMI in November of last year, we need a regional solution (full Visa Waiver implementation) in order to fully harness the economic opportunity that these source markets present to Guam and the CNMI," he added.

Bordallo's Subcommittee also received testimony from Howard Willens on behalf of Fitial.

She said H.R. 6015 is supported by the visitor's industry in both Guam and the CNMI and by elected officials from both sides of the aisle, including Ranking Member Henry Brown.

"Further, my bill would also ensure that Guam and the other territories and Freely Associated States are provided with gross domestic product data annually by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Our witnesses testified on the importance of this bill on our regional economy and I will continue to work with my colleagues on both of these important issues," she said in a statement.

Fitial's testimony also included a request to the Subcommittee to consider extending the transition period related to the federalization of CNMI immigration from the end of 2014 to the end of 2019, and to reinstate a "cover over" tax provision in the Covenant that the federalization law deleted.

INTERIOR

From Page 1

internship with a local and/or federal agency in order to gain understanding of how the government works and to become more civically engaged.

Babauta, who testified before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, chaired by Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo, in Washington, D.C. Thursday, cited five reasons for the Interior's opposition to H.R. 4339.

These include duplication of existing programs, limiting participation of students domiciled in the CNMI, such program is better administered by the CNMI government, will impose additional burden on agencies, and that it will pose budget constraints to the Interior department.

Republican Rep. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, during the oversight hearing, echoed Babauta's concern about a lack of money for the proposed program.

Sablan, at the hearing, said he is willing to work closely with the Interior on the proposal.

Former CNMI Board of Education member Anthony Pellegrino, who served on the board while Inos was still the education commissioner, testified in support of HR 4339, via videoconferencing.

Inos served as the CNMI education commissioner from 1998 to 2005. Pellegrino said it was during this period that Inos implemented many of her ideas to improve the CNMI's educational system. Inos also became the director of Programs and Services at the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning from 1990 to 1998. She chaired PREL's board of directors from 2004 to 2006.

"Let me sum up why you are being asked to approve H.R. 4339. Dr. Rita Hocog Inos devoted her life to furthering education for all the children and people of the Pacific Islands. She blended 'stateside' and 'island' ways," said Pellegrino, who is also a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Inos passed away on Aug. 10, 2009, from cancer.

Pellegrino said by passing H.R. 4339, many qualified CNMI youth will be able to better understand the workings and philosophy of the United States.

"Not only will it bring further enlightenment but a much closer relationship between the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island and the United States. I hope you agree with the objective of H.R. 4339," he added.

Pellegrino also paid tribute to Inos, whom he described as a "lady with a vision and determination to touch the hearts and minds of thousands of children."

"All she desired was a better life for the children of the CNMI and other Pacific Islands. This act, H.R. 4339, is a tribute and memorial to a lady with a winning smile and a love of children," he added.

CNMI Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) submitted written testimony in favor of H.R. 4339.

"H.R. 4339 will encourage our young minds to excel, and experience the world well beyond our shores. Like Dr. Inos who studied in schools in the United States, these fellowships will encourage students to pursue education as the foundation to a life of success and service. Students will experience leadership in our government, and see that they, too, through hard work, can rise to great heights," he said.

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- Men's T-Shirts — $4.99 - $5.99
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- Boys T-Shirts — 3 for $10.00
- Bras (Assorted) — $3.00 - $5.99
- Ladies Sandals — $10.00
- Girls Sandals — $6.99

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Iran, women, barbarism

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Iran's decision to release Sarah Shourd, a 32-year-old American who was imprisoned in the Islamic republic on ridiculous charges of espionage, is drawing cheers this week and rightly so.

Shourd was hiking along the Iraq-Iran border with her fiance and a friend in July 2009, when they were arrested by Iranian officials and thrown in prison in Tehran. They have been behind bars for more than a year. While she was held in solitary confinement, Shourd found a lump in her breast. She was diagnosed with precancerous cells.

Ramin Mehmanarast, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, told Iran's Mehr news agency that President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad intervened in Shourd's case in part because of the "special viewpoint of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the dignity of women."

Never mind the international pressure to release the three Americans or the $500,000 in bail paid for Shourd's release.

But since Mehmanarast brought it up, let's examine the special viewpoint of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the dignity of women, if that's what he wants to call it.

Let's examine execution by stoning, a sentence that Iran imposes far more often on women than men.

Under Iran's penal code, men and women convicted of adultery are to be stoned to death. Yes, it's as gruesome as it sounds. A woman is buried up to her chest; a man is usually buried to his waist. The stones are not to be large enough to kill the person on just one or two strikes, or so small that they could not be defined as stones. They are used to pummel the victim until she dies.

Amnesty International points out that the system makes women more prone to such a fate. Men are allowed multiple wives in Iran, and evidence presented by a woman in court is given less weight than that by a man.

At least 11 Iranians in prison face stoning, and eight are women, according to Amnesty.

The case of one prisoner—Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani, a 43-year-old mother of two who was sentenced to be stoned for a 2006 adultery conviction—has drawn worldwide outrage. As a result of the attention, Iranian officials said they would drop the sentence. The government has also stepped back from carrying out plans to stone to death Mariam Ghorbanzadeh She was six months' pregnant when she was beaten in Tabriz prison and suffered a miscarriage, according to Houtan Kian, an attorney for the two women.

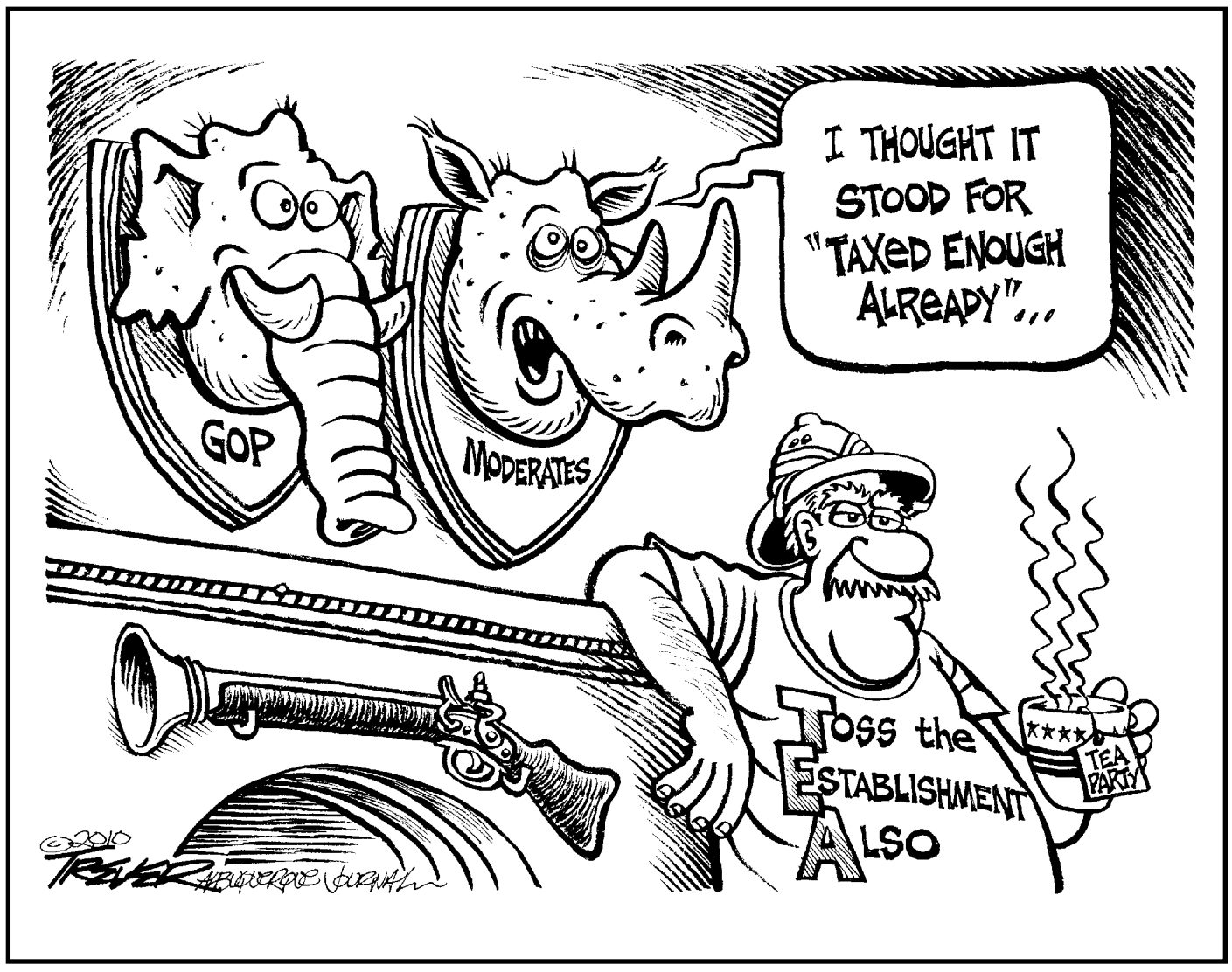
Is Iran showing mercy? Hardly.

The government changed Ghorbanzadeh's sentence—to hanging. Iranian officials have reframed the case against Ashtiani, saying she is guilty of complicity in the murder of her husband, which could lead to a death sentence.

Kian, who represents two other women in Tabriz prison on adultery convictions, worries about the cases that have not entered the global spotlight. "My fear is that Iran executes Mariam and those others whose cases have not attracted media attention," he told the Guardian.

Last week, the president of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, lashed out against Ashtiani's stoning sentence, calling it "barbaric beyond words."

That message needs to echo around the world. An execution of any kind for adultery is barbaric. Iran's "special viewpoint" on women is barbaric.



The economics of war

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times*. Readers may send him e-mail at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.*

President Obama declared an end to the U.S. combat role in Iraq last week, but his speech didn't include the word victory. One reason is that the U.S. combat role isn't entirely over; 50,000 American troops are still in Iraq, and some of them probably will be drawn into battle again. Another is that Iraq isn't at peace and doesn't have a stable government yet.

As a political matter, the president would rather have been talking about the economy—the crisis on the minds of most Americans—instead of an almost-forgotten war that has taken too many lives, too much money and too much time.

Still, the occasion gave Obama a chance to talk about what may be his favorite and most important national security goal: reducing the costs of U.S. foreign and military strategy so they no longer drain the domestic economy. That's how, quite legitimately, he managed to make his speech about the economy after all.

"Our nation's strength and influence abroad must be firmly anchored in our prosperity at home," he said. "Unfortunately, over the last decade, we have not done what is necessary to shore up the foundation of our own prosperity. We have spent over a trillion dollars at war, often financed by borrowing from overseas. This, in turn, has shortchanged investments in our own people and contributed to record deficits."

If that sounded a little like he was blaming our current economic crisis on George W. Bush's wars, he was, at least in part. But he was also building a case for subjecting future decisions—about war, or troop strength in Afghanistan or the size of the defense budget—to more stringent economic analysis.

Obama put it even more crisply last December, in his speech at West Point unveiling the current 18-month buildup of troops in Afghanistan. "We can't simply afford to ignore the price of these wars," he said then.

Bush's foreign policy was about fighting terrorism and spreading democracy around the world, almost heedless of the cost. Obama's is about fighting terrorism with one eye on the balance sheet, and supporting democracy where it can be done at low cost. Given the state of the economy and the lessons we should have learned after seven years in Iraq, his message is likely to fall on receptive ears.

One of the lessons of our recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan has surely been this: Invasions are relatively easy, but counterinsurgency is far more difficult. Invasions draw on our advantages: size, wealth, technology. Counterinsurgency taxes our weaknesses; it requires deep understanding of local culture, a willingness to take casualties and, above all, patience—none of which we possess in much quantity.

The wonder is that the U.S. counterinsurgency campaign in Iraq has accomplished as much as it has. But it has been costly and has taken most of a decade. And we're still struggling to make progress in Afghanistan.

There's no discernible appetite in Washington for trying to fix another country that way soon. Ask American intelligence officials what countries they worry about most, and they name Yemen and Somalia—but nobody's proposing an invasion, an occupation and elections.

When Obama talked this week about the unfinished war in Afghanistan, he merely repeated his most minimal definition of the U.S. goal there: not implanting democracy but "preventing Afghanistan from again serving as a base for terrorists." And he put special emphasis on his intention of sticking to his deadline—next July—for beginning to draw down the number of U.S. troops there.

"The pace of our troop reductions will be determined by conditions on the ground, and our support for Afghanistan will endure," he said. "But make no mistake: this transition will begin, because open-ended war serves neither our interests nor the Afghan people's."

After months of wrangling over what that deadline means, administration officials insist that everyone is on the same page now. But they still seem to be pointing at different spots on the page. Only hours before Obama spoke, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates made the point that although a drawdown will begin on schedule, it won't be hasty.

"If the Taliban really believe that America is heading for the exits next summer in large numbers, they'll be very deeply disappointed and surprised to see us still very much in the fight," he said.

We'll see. When a president uses a phrase like "make no mistake," he's usually trying to send a message. Obama often says he puts great store in keeping his promises, and expresses surprise when others doubt him on that point. He also knows where he wants to be in the presidential campaign year of 2012: with almost all U.S. troops out of Iraq, and a clearly diminishing U.S. troop presence in Afghanistan.

Gates may be right about the summer of 2011; there will likely still be almost 100,000 American troops in Afghanistan then. But a year after that, make no mistake: Army Gen. David H. Petraeus or his successor will be trying to work out how to complete the mission under the new Obama doctrine of more limited resources.

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Leaving on a jet plane

Editor's note: This concludes a series of three stories on the Mo Mo's journey to south of *Dong Bei.*

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Though not gifted with the voice of a singer, I did manage a karaoke club on Tinian at one time, where the customers actually came to drink and sing. I learned my English partly by listening to popular music, and thumping my foot to the beat of their tunes. Right now, I hum John Denver's *Leaving on a Jet Plane.*

If the reader is perusing this paper at breakfast, I am sitting at the Incheon International Airport in Korea to connect to a Dalian, Liaoning flight, and finally, head for my final destination, Yanji in Yanbian, China's Korean Autonomous Region.

My checkered past began when a decade ago, I took my savings and relatives' money, all $5,000, to pay to come to the United States. That's right, America! My parents were getting ready at the time to work in Korea, being *Hanggul Saram* from *Kogoryo* (Korea in China) who obviously have the bilingual advantage; they wanted me to go along with them, but America was such a price, I was willing to sell my soul to get there.

"There" happened to be "here," Saipan with American taste and American cost. Other than the zip code, there's no resemblance to the America of CCTV and magazines. I was a restaurant proprietor in Hun Chun, the last significant town on that strip of highway that is China's only access to the Sea of Japan, also known as *Bei Hai* (East Sea), buffeted on both sides by North Korea and Russia. I was already an entrepreneur, self-sufficient and self-reliant. But adventure beckoned and I heeded the alluring crispness of Uncle Sam's greenbacks that were touted as the currency of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

From the factory line to the food line, I sweated like a longshoreman in Kowloon but the promise of wealth did not come. However, life bumped into "happy" when a dashing Filipino romantic walked into my life. A country girl with a deformed arm, and various scars from tomboyish wildness, I swooned like the moon moist in autumn mist.

OK, we all know the stereotype: "good lovers but lousy husbands." As they fondly claim, Filipinos of my acquaintance, of all three genders, are always available, never mind if married or not! I threw caution to the wind. My Yanbian common-law husband and I never signed the dotted line and, having emotionally parted long before, I was ready to chase the American dream, an obsession in the pursuit of happiness. Or, is it the happiness of pursuit?

The money came easy once demand was identified. *Ice.* It is the drug of stamina used across the border of *Chosun Koryo* (North Korea). The girls on Saipan and Tinian consumed it as a weight control supplement; it kills appetite. Weekend revelers sniffed it like dogs in heat just so they could party all night without feeling the effects of hangover and adrenaline-deficient moments. I was already a *su jou* drinker, influenced by my papa and ex-hubby, so I already had a vice of choice. San Mig was the drowning liquid of my *paramour*.

I kept saying, "Enough." I had recouped all expenses with more than change to spare to start a new restaurant in *Dong Bei.* But the baccarat and roulette tables sang their own siren songs, so I kept working harder so that I could keep payments of a debt growing faster; the inner calm cautioned me to be smarter. DEA was not far behind so my house of cards came tumbling down on the first legal tremor and shake.

First, lover went away to meet other obligations, financial and emotional. Unable to cut my losses and run, I took on another distributing partner whose scruples were more viciously self-centered than mine; not a good management choice. When the DEA boom came down on me, I kept mum. No squeak or squeal to save skin. I made the guilty plea bargain for a lesser charge with a sigh of relief. Though not squeamish about consuming dog meat (I am Korean, neh?), living *mundo cane* had become my third strike. "Dog eat dog" is an American saying; I had also fallen into the lifestyle.

Detention was not much of an ordeal other than the initial phase of drug withdrawal. The correction facility was "family" run, symbiosis between guarded and guards prevailed. A blurred line between what was licit and illicit existed. Getting along was the norm and I was a master player.

One of my kidneys gave out. Orange garb was not fashionable and handcuffs no longer appealed to Bonnie and Clyde at the hospital. I was doing time for crime. Incarceration for 88 additional days, however, without any recognition of due process is not acceptable. Before the law, I am Mo Mo, someone. Somebody.

"Sorry, we slipped," might have been sufficient to steady frayed nerves, but the AG's office decided to justify the extended detention as legal and common practice. My lawyer and I do not think so. We'll see what the judge says. For now, I am heading home. I listen to Madonna croon, *Don't Cry for me, Argentina,* while under my breath I hum the same tune for Saipanda. "You do not see my tears," the fish says to the Sea, "because I am in the water." The Sea replies: "I can feel your tears because you are in my heart."

Goodbye Saipan. Farewell Tinian. Thanks for the welcome Yanbian!

Boxer's racist rant draws mostly silence

By MIKE LOPRESTI
GANNETT

One week. I've waited one week for the outrage to pour down on all the verbal trash a boxer named Floyd Mayweather Jr. had to say about another boxer named Manny Pacquiao. And so far, the silence has been deafening, not to mention sad and telling.

Let's be bold and take a wild guess that many of you don't wake up each morning eager for the latest boxing headlines. Vanishing faster than pay phones are Americans who can tell you the name of the heavyweight champion of the world—however many versions there are.

But these are two of the hottest names in the sport, supposedly destined to one day meet in a super fight that would make Las Vegas glow, if they can ever stop bickering about the contract. So you might have heard some of the excerpts from Mayweather's profane and racist Internet video rant about his Filipino rival.

You might have noted this for example: "As soon as we come off vacation, we're going to cook that little yellow chump."

Or this: "Once I stomp that midget, I'll make that mother-(bleeper) make me a sushi roll and cook me some rice."

Or this: "We're going to cook that (bleeper) up with some cats and dogs."

Throw in calling Pacquiao a "whore," along with generous usage of a derogatory F-word normally aimed toward gay males, and you get the general tone.

This was like making a 911 call to the sports precinct of the PC police. Certainly, it rose to the level of Don Imus calling the Rutgers basketball team "nappy-headed 'hos.' "

Absolutely, it matched Fuzzy Zoeller's bad joke about Tiger Woods not putting fried chicken and collard greens on the Masters champions dinner.

Positively, it could stand aside Howard Cosell referring to a small Washington Redskins player as "that little monkey."

Imus was fired. Zoeller, once among the most gregarious figures in golf, retreated into the shadows and never quite recovered. Cosell, despite being a stalwart defender of Muhammad Ali in the stormy Vietnam years, was savaged by critics. They all apologized, as Mayweather did, but that did not save them from having reputations burned at the stake.

So I waited for the volcano of indignation. One week. And mostly . . . nothing.

Nothing from the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who led the charge after Imus and said after the radio host was summarily sacked, "It's a victory for public decency."

Nothing from the Rev. Al Sharpton, who said of Imus: "We cannot afford a precedent establishing that the airwaves can commercialize and mainstream sexism and racism."

The loudest and lonely cry came from the National Federation of Filipino American Associations, which was probably appalled not only by the mean spirit of the words but the errant idea that sushi is regarded as a Filipino dish.

Imagine a major league pitcher talking about Ichiro Suzuki: "My fastball is going to cook that little yellow chump."

Or a defensive end in the NFL talking about Donovan McNabb: "Once I stomp that midget, I'll make him make me fried chicken."

Think there'd be some, ah, ramifications? It'd be headlines and talk show fodder for days. But for whatever reason—plenty to choose from—this vanished like a shooting star.

Is it because nobody cares about boxing? Most Americans can't find the Philippines on a map, so why bother to be offended? The ugly underbelly of the Internet makes us numb to inane ramblings? A black athlete is not held to the same standard of sensitivity?

Only a couple of conclusions can be made.

One more time, boxing has given us a reason to dismiss it as a sport that's turned into grimy carnival act.

And many who portray themselves as tireless guardians of the boundaries of decency in discussion on race appear to have very selective criteria for where the line might be.

A Muslim's faith in America

By HARIS TARIN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

When my parents decided to leave their war-ravaged homeland of Afghanistan in the 1980s, they had the option of migrating to a number of different countries, but sought one that they could make their "home." You see, my father was a government official in the Afghan Education Ministry, before the Russian invasion and the subsequent takeover by the Taliban. He was tasked with modernizing the Afghan educational system while also ensuring that core, centuries-old Afghan values were preserved.

The assignment took him all over the world—from Australia to India to Malaysia and a host of other Muslim-majority countries. Yet no nation left a lasting impact on him until his visit to the United States in 1972.

During his extensive travels from coast to coast and many places in between, he established friendships he never imagined were possible with people of a different faith, culture and skin color. He marveled at the openness and welcoming nature of the American people and government. Little did he know then that in a matter of three decades, he and my mother would choose the U.S. as their adopted homeland, and that he would be buried in its soil.

As young children, we would ask him why he chose this country. He would calmly respond: "The acceptance of my faith that I received in my travels through this country, I would not be able to find anywhere else."

He would tell us about the people who respected his religious practice of praying five times a day and created spaces for him to pray in. He would fondly recall how warm and open people were.

Yet today, I am afraid for my children. I am afraid that when they turn the TV on, or listen to the radio (which I now turn off when we are in the car), they will receive a very different message from the one my father shared with us. The message they hear today is of intolerance. Whether it be about an Islamic center in New York blocks from Ground Zero or a mosque in Temecula, Calif., their faith is being openly and viciously maligned, and they themselves are made to feel responsible for the attacks on 9/11.

My children were born here, and they consider themselves as wholly American, but I fear that the current discourse about their faith and their houses of worship will have a devastating effect on them.

My father knew something greater about America than what is spouted by Sarah Palin, Newt Gingrich and the host of professional bigots who have built a cottage industry out of Muslim-baiting. He knew that the power of America is in its acceptance and openness.

Gingrich is right about one thing. There are no churches or synagogues in places such as Saudi Arabia. But that is precisely the reason so many Muslim immigrants like my father chose not to make a home there or in other similarly restrictive countries. He knew that his children would be better able to worship in a culture of freedom and openness.

I am secretly relieved that my father did not live long enough to see the current controversy surrounding the center in New York City. I am happy that his experience of his adopted homeland was one of friendship and acceptance. I am proud that his best friends, my godparents, are American Jews who loved my father and brought us to the U.S., hosting us in their home until we were able to settle in.

But I'm left wondering: What do I tell my 10-year old daughter, Hanan, and my 8-year-old son, Rayyan, when they ask me why fear-mongers in Tennessee, New York, Florida and California don't want a mosque or Muslims as their neighbors?

Both for their sakes and my own, I will share with them their grandfather's stories. I will encourage them to become active citizens who will ensure that the tolerance and openness their grandfather experienced decades ago in America will be cherished and maintained for others who yearn for it in the decades to come.

I will refuse to allow the voices of fear to minimize my father's experiences and degrade the America he fell in love with. My children deserve better. We all do.

Haris Tarin is the director of the Washington office of the Muslim Public Affairs Council. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲85° ▼79°	▲86° ▼78°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°

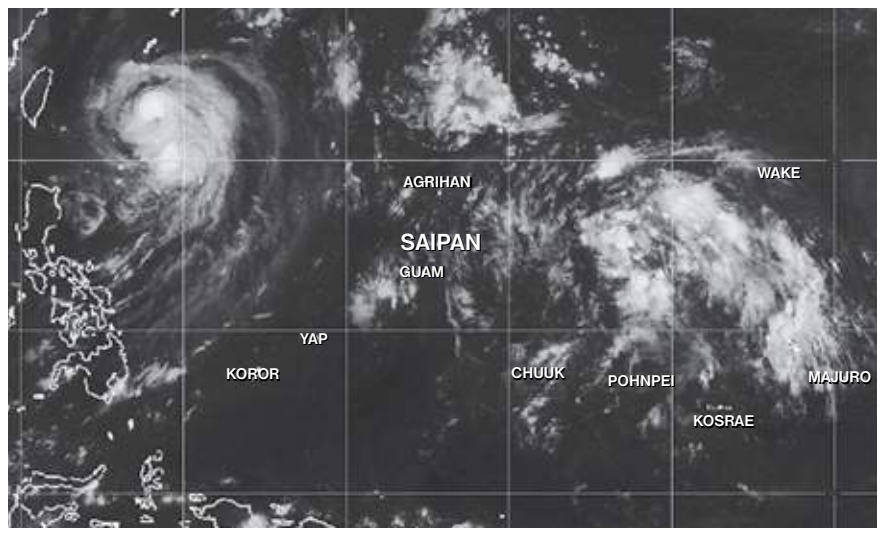
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼76
Palau	Sunny	▲88	▼77
Yap	Sunny	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼77
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲90	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲60	▼55
Beijing	Rain	▲73	▼63
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲89	▼81
Honolulu	Sunny	▲87	▼75
London	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼44
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲78	▼58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90	▼80
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲60	▼50
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼77
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼60
Osaka	Sunny	▲87	▼75
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼42
Pusan	Sunny	▲83	▼71
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼66
Salem	Showers	▲72	▼59
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼58
Seoul	Sunny	▲82	▼67
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼73
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼64

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring east and southeast of Typhoon Fanapi (12W) located south of Okinawa or over the northwest corner of the discussion area west of a line from 17N132E to 23N132E. Refer to JTWC bulletin under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW or JMA warning under WMO header WTJP21 RJTD for further information on Fanapi. An upper-level trough extends northeastward from EQ135E through an upper low centered just west of Saipan at 15N142E to another upper low centered northeast of Pagan at 23N148E then turns eastward to a third upper low centered east of Minami Torishima near 25N161E and finally continues east-southeastward to beyond 180 at 20n. Isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the trough west of the CNMI within 90 miles of a line from 16N139E to 22N143E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen north of the Marianas and over Minami Torishima or north of a line from 22N144E to 19N152E to 24N158E. Converging trade winds are coupling with divergent winds south of the aforementioned upper-level trough to produce a large area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of eastern Micronesia and just south of Wake Island. This area is bounded by a line from 15N147E to 19N163E to 11N180 to 7N180 to 13N163E to 9N156E to 9N148E back to 15N147E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Pohnpei and Kosrae but just west of Kwajalein between 2N and 12N from 158E to 167E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:45 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:21 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
5:42 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:11 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:17 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:16 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:15 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:14 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:14 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:52 PM	1:42 AM
Sunday	3:32 PM	2:33 AM
Monday	4:10 PM	3:21 AM
Tuesday	4:45 PM	4:08 AM
Wednesday	5:20 PM	4:55 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA

DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily

NAGOYA-SAIPAN

DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL630/641	6:30am	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
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- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio

Sunday	
9am	Sunday school
10am	Regular worship
6pm	worship
Wednesday	
7pm	worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service
located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Business

United, Continental shareholders vote on deal

By DAVID KOENIG and JOSHUA FREED
AP AIRLINES WRITERS

Shareholders of United's parent company and Continental Airlines are voting on a deal that would create the world's biggest airline.

Results of voting that started in late August will be announced Friday. If shareholders approve, the $3 billion stock deal could close in two weeks.

Then the real work begins, including dealing with labor issues, combining reservations systems and even putting new paint jobs on the planes.

There's also the matter of a lawsuit by several dozen passengers who claim that a United-Continental combination will lead to fewer flights and higher fares. A federal judge in San Francisco is scheduled to hear closing arguments Friday on a request to block the deal.

It likely will be some time before passengers notice much difference when they fly Continental or United.

The airlines expect to operate separately for at least another year until they get permission from the Federal Aviation Administration to merge their fleets. Eventually, the combined carrier will be called United Airlines and based in United's hometown of Chicago. It will be run by Continental CEO Jeff Smisek.

Shareholders of United parent UAL Corp. are scheduled to meet Friday morning in Chicago, while Continental shareholders will gather in Houston. UAL would acquire Continental in the stock-swap deal.

The companies hope to attract more corporate travelers by combining United's strength in the Midwest, the West Coast and over the Pacific with Continental's presence in Texas, the East Coast and routes to Europe and Latin America.

Measured by traffic—the number of miles flown by paying customers—the new United would leapfrog Delta Air Lines Inc., Air France-KLM and American Airlines to become the world's biggest airline.

Size is no guarantee of profits in the airline business. UAL and Continental together lost nearly $7 billion in 2008 and 2009 due to high fuel costs and the recession. Both returned to profitably last quarter, as fees and higher fares boosted revenue.

The new parent company will be called United Continental Holdings Inc. It would have had $29 billion in revenue last year.

The history of the airline industry has been littered with mergers that didn't work out as well as planned.

American Airlines parent AMR Corp. bought TWA during a recession in 2001. Within a few years, American had dropped TWA's St. Louis hub and furloughed most of the TWA workers. The 2005 deal to combine US Airways and America West is still plagued by animosity between the two labor groups.

Continental and United talked about a merger in 2008, but Continental—the smaller but more financially secure of the two—walked away from the table. Talks resumed this year after Delta's acquisition of Northwest seemed to go smoothly, creating a more powerful competitor.

UAL and Continental stock will continue to trade until the deal closes, at which time Continental shareholders will get 1.05 shares in the new United for each Continental share they owned. Current UAL shareholders will own 55 percent of the combined company.

SEC eyes revised rules on banks' debt-level disclosure

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal regulators are set to propose new rules that could make it harder for financial firms to disguise their level of debt.

The expanded disclosure requirements would apply to banks' practice of temporarily trimming their debt at the end of quarters to make their financial statements appear stronger. The practice is legal but regulators say it can give investors a distorted picture of a bank's debt and level of risk.

Lehman Brothers used so-called repurchase agreements as an accounting trick in the months before its collapse into the biggest bankruptcy in U.S. history two years ago. The demise of the Wall Street titan triggered a panic in financial markets.

Lehman had put together complex transactions that allowed the firm to sell billions in mortgage securities at the end of a quarter—wiping them off its balance sheet when regulators and shareholders were examining it—and then to quickly buy them back. The repurchase agreements, detailed in a report issued in March by a court-appointed examiner, were known as Repo 105.

Nation

White House defends stimulus, highlights projects

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rehabilitating New York's Staten Island Ferry Terminal. Cutting a new highway through Nelsonville, Ohio. Building a trio of battery factories in Michigan.

In a report being released Friday by Vice President Joe Biden, the White House pushes back against criticism of its $814 billion stimulus program and highlights 100 projects that it says are creating jobs and growing the economy.

Republicans cite a nearly 10 percent unemployment rate in arguing that the stimulus has been a costly failure.

Among the projects the White House cites:

■ The New York City Department of Transportation is spending $175 million to rehabilitate eight vehicular bridges, one pedestrian bridge and one parking field that provide commuters with access to the Staten Island Ferry Terminal. The report says more than 120 people work on the project and that it has given a boost to the local economy.

■ Ohio's transportation department is building a new, 8.5-mile, four-lane highway in Nelsonville to move freight traffic off local roads and help these trucks reach their destinations more quickly. The report says the $138 million project has created 300 jobs in the economically suffering state since the groundbreaking last fall.

■ A123 Systems is using $249 million in stimulus money to build battery factories in the Michigan cities of Livonia, Romulus and Brownstown. President Barack Obama envisions the U.S. becoming a leader in battery manufacturing technology and he has invested heavily in growing the clean energy industry in the U.S. The report says Watertown, Mass.-based A123 has created 261 new jobs and expects to hire more than 3,000 people by 2012.

■ Research into a cure for cancer is also a job creator, according to the report. More than $153 million in stimulus funds went to The Cancer Genome Atlas project, described as a large-scale collaborative effort involving 15 premier research institutions across the country. More than 150 researchers are working to characterize the genetic and genomic changes that occur in human adult cancers.

A White House official released details Thursday on just 20 of the 100 projects. The official did so on condition of anonymity because the full report, "100 Recovery Act Projects That Are Changing America," had not been formally released.

AP

President Barack Obama, center, speaks as Vice President Joe Biden, left, and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, right, listen during a new conference on the economy in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Sept., 15, 2010.

Relief well intersects blown-out BP well in Gulf

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A relief well drilled nearly 2.5 miles beneath the floor of the Gulf of Mexico has intersected BP's blown-out well, a prelude to plugging it once and for all, the U.S government said late Thursday.

The final seal should happen by Sunday, five agonizing months after an explosion sank a drilling rig and led to the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history.

Retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, the government's point man on the oil spill, said in a statement that data shows the two wells are joined. The next step will be to pump mud and cement down through the relief well to seal the ruptured well permanently from the bottom.

The gusher was contained in mid-July after a temporary cap was successfully fitted atop the well. Mud and cement were later pushed down through the top of the well, allowing the cap to be removed. But the blown-out well cannot be declared dead until it is sealed from the bottom.

The April 20 blast sank the Deepwater Horizon rig, killing 11 workers and triggering the spill that eventually spewed 206 million gallons of oil into the Gulf. BP PLC is a majority owner of the well and was leasing the rig from owner Transocean Ltd.

The disaster caused an environmental and economic nightmare for people who live, work and play along hundreds of miles of Gulf shoreline from Florida to Texas. It also spurred civil and criminal investigations, cost gaffe-prone BP chief Tony Hayward his job and brought increased governmental scrutiny of the oil and gas industry, including a costly moratorium on deepwater offshore drilling that is still in place.

Gulf residents will be feeling the pain for years to come. There is still plenty of oil in the water, and some continues to wash up on shore.

Many people are still struggling to make ends meet with some waters still closed to fishing. Shrimpers who are allowed to fish are finding it difficult to sell their catch because of the perception—largely from people outside the region—that the seafood is not safe to eat. Tourism along the Gulf has taken a hit.

BP took some of the blame for the Gulf oil disaster in an internal report issued earlier this month, acknowledging among other things that it misinterpreted a key pressure test of the well. But in a possible preview of its legal strategy, it also pointed the finger at its partners on the doomed rig.

Gunman kills himself and mother at Baltimore hospital

BALTIMORE (AP)—A man who became distraught as he was being briefed on his mother's condition by a surgeon at Johns Hopkins Hospital pulled a gun and shot the doctor Thursday, then killed his mother and himself in her room at the world-famous medical center, police said.

The doctor, who was wounded in the abdomen, was expected to survive.

The gunman, 50-year-old Paul Warren Pardus, had been listening to the surgeon around midday when he "became emotionally distraught and reacted ... and was overwhelmed by the news of his mother's condition," Police Commissioner Frederick H. Bealefeld III said.

Pardus pulled a semiautomatic gun from his waistband and shot the doctor once, the commissioner said. The doctor, identified by colleagues as orthopedic surgeon David B. Cohen, collapsed outside the eighth-floor room where Pardus' mother, Jean Davis, was being treated.

Pardus then holed up in the room in a more than two-hour standoff that led authorities to lock down a small section of the Nelson Building while allowing the rest of the sprawling red-brick medical complex—a cluster of hospital, research and education buildings—to remain open.

When officers made their way to the room, they found Pardus and his mother shot to death, he on the floor, she in her bed.

Bealefeld said he did not know what the woman was being treated for at Hopkins, a world-class institution widely known for its cancer research and treatment. It is part of Johns Hopkins University, which has one of the foremost medical schools in the world.

Harry Koffenberger, vice president of security, said the hospital uses handheld metal detectors to screen patients and visitors known to be high-risk. However, with 80 entrances and 80,000 visitors a week, it is not realistic to place metal detectors and guards everywhere.

"Not in a health-care setting," Koffenberger said.

The hospital will review procedures and look again at the use of metal detectors, he said.

Michelle Burrell, who works in a coffee shop in the hospital lobby, said she was told by employees who were on the floor where the doctor was shot that the gunman was angry with the doctor's treatment of his mother.

"It's crazy," she said.

Pardus was from Arlington, Va., and had a handgun permit in that state, police said. The gunman was initially identified as Warren Davis, but police later said that was an alias.

The wounded doctor, an assistant professor at the medical school, underwent surgery.

"The doctor will be OK," police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said. "He's in the best place in the world—at Johns Hopkins Hospital."

With more than 30,000 employees, the Johns Hopkins medical system is Baltimore's biggest private employer. The hospital has more than 1,000 beds and more than 1,700 full-time doctors.

The Nelson Building is the main hospital tower. The eighth floor is home to orthopedic, spine, trauma and thoracic services.

Police say Wash. acid attack self-inflicted

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP)—A woman who gained sympathy worldwide after she claimed a random assailant threw acid on her face came forward Thursday with startling admission: She inflicted the attack on herself.

Vancouver police chief Clifford Cook said Bethany Storro admitted under police questioning to fabricating a story about the attack, in which she suffered severe burns.

Cook said he did not know a motive for Storro's actions, but added she is "very remorseful." He said Storro was still being interviewed by detectives.

The police chief said that "during the course of the investigation, several discrepancies began to emerge regarding the alleged attack," leading police to search her home earlier Thursday and interview her.

"During the interview, Ms. Storro admitted the injuries were self-inflicted," Cook said.

AP

This image provided by the Legacy Emanuel Medical Center shows Bethany Storro prior to surgery in Portland, Ore. Vancouver, Wash.

Police had been seeking a black woman with a ponytail after Storro described the Aug. 30 attack. She had said the woman asked her, "Hey, pretty girl, want something to drink?" then threw acid in her face.

After the incident, Storro made several media appearances, but a planned interview on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" was canceled. She said she had received correspondence from people around the world concerned for her well being.

Vancouver police Commander Marla Schuman said detectives are working on a way to return any money donated to Storro.

Cook said any decision to charge Storro with a crime would be left to the Clark County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Clark County Senior Deputy Prosecutor John Fairgrieve did not immediately return a call from The Associated Press seeking comment Thursday.

"She is extremely upset," Schuman said. "In many ways, this got bigger than she expected."

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Asia

2 Koreas discuss reuniting families divided by war

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Red Cross officials crossed into North Korea on Friday to discuss Pyongyang's proposal to resume the reunions of families separated by the Korean War in the latest sign of easing tensions on the Korean peninsula.

North Korea's Red Cross wants to hold the reunions at its Diamond Mountain resort in late October, Unification Ministry spokesman Chun Hae-sung said in Seoul.

The reunions would be the first in a year, and a promising sign that the two Koreas are working to repair relations in the wake of the March sinking of a South Korean warship. Seoul blames Pyongyang for the incident that killed 46 sailors; North Korea denies involvement.

North Korea also has proposed working-level military talks with South Korea—the first in nearly two years—to discuss their disputed western maritime border and anti-North Korean leafletting by activists.

Seoul said it was cautiously considering the proposal but still needs to see an apology for the sinking of the Cheonan warship.

AP

A South Korean truck driver prepare to leave for North Korea near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) of Panmunjom in Paju, north of Seoul, South Korea, Friday, Sept. 17, 2010.

North Korea's neighbors are also engaged in diplomatic efforts to resume the stalled disarmament talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear weapons programs. Pyongyang quit the six-nation talks last year to protest international condemnation of a long-range rocket launch seen as a test of its missile technology.

Washington's special envoy on North Korea, Stephen Bosworth, was back in Seoul on Thursday after visiting Beijing and Tokyo as part of an Asian tour to discuss getting North Korea back to the negotiating table.

Senior U.S. officials told a Senate Armed Services Committee on Thursday that the attack on the Cheonan was an "act of war" that may have been Pyongyang's attempt to goad the U.S. into making concessions in future nuclear talks.

Tensions have been high since an international team of investigators concluded in May that a North Korean torpedo sank the Cheonan. Pyongyang threatened war if punished for an attack it said it did not carry out.

However, there have been a series of conciliatory gestures from both Koreas in recent weeks.

US envoy warns Pakistan of flood funding shortfall

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—The world will only be able to fund around 25 percent of the tens of billions of dollars needed to rebuild Pakistan after the floods, and its government will have to make up the shortfall, the U.S. envoy to the country warned Thursday.

Richard Holbrooke said America would not condition its assistance to the country, but warned that the U.S. Congress might not be generous if it felt that Pakistan was not taxing its own citizens enough.

Pakistan's rich have traditionally not paid much tax on their income or their property—either because they evade them or are exempt—and the country's collection rates are among the lowest in the world. Critics have pointed to this shortage of revenue in recent weeks as Pakistani leaders have sought international aid. The country's economy is surviving on international assistance, and the floods are expected to badly slow economic growth further.

"I don't want to withhold money they need, but I think we have to be clear that the Congress is going to be reluctant to give money if the money is filling in a gap because people are not paying taxes," said Holbrooke during a visit to Karachi.

Monsoon rains triggered massive floods six weeks ago that spread across the country and are still continuing in parts of the south. Some 8 million people have been made homeless in what Pakistani and U.N. officials have said is one of the largest humanitarian disasters in living memory.

The United Nations said last week that it had received $310 million toward its initial emergency appeal, although private and bilateral donations bring the global total committed for Pakistan flood aid to roughly US$1.1 billion. On Sunday, donor nations are meeting in New York to appeal for more.

America has given more than $260 million for flood relief and has provided 30 military helicopters to evacuate people and deliver food and supplies.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan gets new foreign minister in Cabinet shuffle

TOKYO (AP)—Seiji Maehara, a security expert and former transport minister, has been named Japan's new foreign minister. Maehara, 48, will replace Katsuya Okada, who will take up the No. 2 post in the ruling Democratic Party of Japan. The Cabinet shuffle took place after Prime Minister Naoto Kan a leadership challenge earlier this week. Maehara must address a diplomatic spat with China over a boat collision near some disputed islands in the East China Sea claimed by both countries, as well as the nettlesome problem over the relocation of a controversial U.S. Marine base on Okinawa.

3 teens suspended after allegedly killing kangaroo

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Three eighth-grade Australian students have been suspended from school and will be questioned by police after allegedly beating a kangaroo to death with a metal rod last week. The students were immediately suspended after a teacher reported seeing the teenagers bashing the kangaroo while they were at a school camp, Torquay College principal Pam Kinsman said Friday. "We are taking the matter extremely seriously. We are cooperating with police," Kinsman said. She said the boys could be expelled or be assigned community work.

NZ lawmaker who stole dead baby's identity quits

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A New Zealand politician resigned from his party Friday after admitting he stole a dead baby's identity to obtain a false passport 26 years ago. David Garrett, a lawmaker with the minor Act Party, made the surprise admission in Parliament this week, calling the identity theft a "harmless prank" when he was in his mid-20s. Garrett, now 52 and Act's spokesman on law-and-order issues, said he picked the idea up from the best-selling novel "Day of the Jackal."

World

Pope admits church failures in sex abuse scandal

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI waded into the hostile atmosphere Thursday of highly secular Britain, admitting the Catholic Church did not act decisively or quickly enough to remove priests who molested children in his strongest comments yet on the worldwide sex abuse crisis shaking his church.

In a visit unprecedented for the bitter opposition to his papacy, Benedict warned against "aggressive forms" of secularism. The German pope recalled how Britain had stood against "Nazi tyranny that wished to eradicate God from society."

Pope Benedict XVI

Benedict's historic four-day state visit has been overshadowed by disgust over the abuse scandal and indifference in Britain, where Catholics are a minority of 10 percent and endured centuries of bloody persecution and discrimination until the early 19th century.

The trip is the first state visit by a pope to the U.K., and his meeting with Queen Elizabeth II was symbolically significant because of the historic divide between the officially Protestant nation and the Catholic Church.

Only 65,000 of the faithful had tickets to an open-air Mass at Bellahouston Park in Glasgow, far less than the 100,000 initially expected. The British media has been particularly hostile to the pope's visit, noting its $18.7 million (12 million pound) security cost to taxpayers at a time of austerity measures and job losses.

Many in Britain are also strongly opposed to Benedict's hard line against homosexuality, abortion and using condoms to prevent the spread of AIDS. Protests were planned and "Pope Nope" T-shirts were spotted around London.

Still, a crowd of 125,000 in Edinburgh welcomed Benedict warmly as his Popemobile paraded through the streets, with cheers on Princes Street heard from a mile away and well-wishers waving the Holy See's yellow-and-white flag.

Only around 20 protesters gathered at the designated demonstration spot in Glasgow, where the pope celebrated an afternoon Mass, their complaints ranging from abusive priests to the pope's stance on contraception and homosexuality.

While flying to Britain, Benedict was asked about polls that suggest many Catholics have lost trust in the church as a result of the sex abuse scandals. Benedict said he was shocked and saddened about the scope of the abuse, in part because priests take vows to be Christ's voice upon ordination.

"It's difficult to understand how a man who has said this could then fall into this perversion. It's a great sadness," Benedict said in Italian. "It's also sad that the authority of the church wasn't sufficiently vigilant, and not sufficiently quick or decisive to take necessary measures" to stop it.

He said victims were the church's top priority as it tries to help them heal spiritually and psychologically.

"How can we repair, what can we do to help these people overcome this trauma, find their lives again and find again the trust in the message of Christ?" Benedict said.

He insisted that abusive priests must never again be allowed access to young children, saying they suffer from an illness that "goodwill" cannot cure. In addition, he said, candidates for the priesthood must be better screened.

The crowds that turned out in Scotland were enthusiastic.

"I've brought my wee girl Laura to see the pope," said James Hegarty, a 42-year-old unemployed Edinburgh resident. "She's only 4, but it's a once in a lifetime chance to see him."

Tens of thousands waved flags and applauded as Benedict arrived in his Popemobile for the Mass in Glasgow. At one point, he rolled down the vehicle's window to kiss a baby dressed all in pink.

Scottish singing sensation Susan Boyle warmed up the crowd and then fulfilled a dream of singing before the pope, serenading him with "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace."

In his homily, the 83-year-old pope warned young people against the temptations posed by drugs, money, sex, pornography and alcohol, "which the world tells you will bring you happiness."

The pope's first meeting of the day was with Queen Elizabeth II, both the head of state and head of the Church of England, at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh, chosen because she spends her summers at Balmoral Castle in Scotland.

WORLD BRIEFS

UK spy chief warns of dissident Republican threat

LONDON (AP)—The head of Britain's domestic spy agency warned Friday that the U.K. faces potent new threats from terrorism incubated in Northern Ireland, the Middle East and North Africa. Jonathan Evans, director-general of MI5, the country's domestic intelligence service, said in a rare public speech that attacks on the U.K. are increasingly likely to emanate from Somalia, Yemen or Belfast, as al-Qaida-linked groups flee strongholds in Pakistan. The spy chief said the 2012 London Olympic Games will likely be a major target for terrorist attacks, and warned that dissidents who reject Northern Ireland's peace process could strike mainland British cities for the first time since 2001.

News photographer killed in Mexican border city

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)—Gunmen attacked two newspaper photographers Thursday in the drug war-torn border city of Ciudad Juarez, killing one and seriously wounding the other. Luis Carlos Santiago and Carlos Sanchez, of the Diario de Juarez, were driving to lunch when gunmen in two cars intercepted them and opened fire, newspaper director Pedro Torres told The Associated Press. Santiago, 21, was killed and Sanchez was in serious condition, Torres said. Torres said he did not know why the photographers were targeted. He said Santiago had just started working for the newspaper two weeks ago, and Sanchez was an intern.

Honduran police tear gas Zeyala supporters; 1 dead

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—A street vendor died Thursday from inhaling tear gas fired by police against hundreds of supporters of ousted President Manuel Zelaya. Separately, gunmen killed the government's deputy director of transportation—the latest in a string of assassinations in a country plagued with political turmoil and rampant crime.

The police used tear gas and a water cannon to break up the demonstration Wednesday in the northern city of San Pedro Sula. The police chased some of the protesters into an opposition radio station, whose employees were forced to evacuate because of the tear gas.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, September 18, 2010

Marian visionary on Saipan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former overseas Filipino worker from Canada who is now recognized as a visionary after reportedly seeing an apparition of and receiving messages from the Virgin Mary is on Saipan from Sept. 16 to 18 to do missionary work.

Emma De Guzman will be performing healing prayers at the San Jose Church today, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

She is scheduled to leave Saipan on Sunday.

A native of Cabanatuan City in Nueva Ecija, De Guzman is a widow who worked as a domestic helper in Singapore in the '80s before she went to Canada to work as a nanny in order to support her three children.

In 1991, De Guzman's best friend Sol Gaviola organized a pilgrimage to the Fatima Shrine and invited De Guzman to come along.

It was during the pilgrimage that De Guzman felt something different. Weeks after the pilgrimage, De Guzman purportedly started seeing the Virgin Mary.

De Guzman and Gaviola founded the La Pieta Prayer Group in Kingston, Ontario with the help of Lisa Eltanal in December 1991.

Manifestations of De Guzman's mystical gifts have been experienced by witnesses and supporters through healing, levitation, stigmata, ability to write in ancient languages, and appearance of mysterious phenomena, including roses emerging from the center of her chest, roses and rose petals falling around her, and appearance of glitter on her face and body.

De Guzman received a message from the Virgin Mary in 2002 telling her to return to the Philippines and look for a Mountain of Salvation. In December 2004, the Virgin Mary appeared to her on a hill in Batangas and told De Guzman about her and Jesus' love for Filipinos and the Philippines.

De Guzman's mystical abilities attracted the attention of thousands of people from all walks of life, including famous celebrities, wealthy members of the society, and members of the Catholic Church.

In fact, De Guzman has been endorsed by Bishop Garmendai of South Bronx, New York and Bishop Roman Danylak of Toronto, Canada.

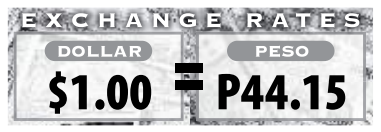
De Guzman was also able to turn skeptics into believers after they attended her healing ministry and witnessed her mystical manifestations.

OFW remittances hit $1.62B in July

» Up 8.2 percent from last year

By MICHELLE REMO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Remittances rose anew in July as recovery of the global economy stirred up demand for more Filipino workers abroad, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported Wednesday.



The BSP said the money sent in by Filipinos abroad amounted to $1.62 billion in July, rising by 8.2 percent from only $1.49 billion in the same month last year.

This brought the cumulative amount of remittances in the first eight months of the year to $10.68 billion—up 7.1 percent from $9.97 billion in the same period a year ago.

"Underpinning mainly the resilience of remittances is the continued demand for Filipino manpower worldwide as global employment prospects remained favorable," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in a statement.

Tetangco said that given the encouraging inflow in July, the central bank could expect remittances to continue to grow throughout the rest of the year.

Aquino: Nuke energy studied for Mindanao

DAVAO CITY, Philippines—President Aquino said the government will study the possibility of using nuclear energy to solve Mindanao's power problem even if it is a "hot bottle issue."

Mindanao exporters have been urging the government to explore the possibility of tapping nuclear power to mitigate the effects of climate change on Mindanao's power supply.

Earlier this year, Mindanao experienced up to 12 hours of power outages daily due to the drying up of its hydropower sources as a result of the El Niño weather phenomenon.

Mindanao draws more than 50 percent of its power from hydro sources such as Lake Lanao and the Pulangui River.

Vicente Lao, chair of the Mindanao Business Council, said nuclear energy might just be the answer to the Mindanao power problem, which has hindered its economy in the past.

"Nuclear power is a hot-bottle issue. There are elements in society who are up in arms when they hear about it but the government will study the proposal," Aquino told businessmen during a forum at the Marco Polo Hotel here Thursday.

The President acknowledged that the recent power outages highlighted the power supply problem in Mindanao.

"There's too much dependence on hydro power," he said.

But Aquino said there are also other sources that can be developed such as wind-driven power generators, which could be put up in Camiguin or Davao del Sur.

IN MOURNING AP PHOTO/KIN CHEUNG

Mourners pay tribute to a Hong Kong family of Ken Leung Kam Wing, Miss Doris Leung Chung See and Miss Jessie Leung Song Yi, who were killed during the Manila hostage incident during their funeral in Hong Kong on Friday, Sept. 17, 2010. The Philippine justice secretary said Thursday she will recommend criminal and administrative charges against about 10 officials, police officers and journalists over the deaths of eight Hong Kong tourists last month in a botched hostage rescue that outraged China.

Aquino-Obama meeting likely at UN assembly—US official

CAGAYAN DE ORO—President Benigno Aquino III and United States President Barack Obama will have "key opportunities" to discuss Philippine-US relations when the Philippine leader goes to the United Nations General Assembly next week, Leslie Bassett, Deputy Ambassador to the Philippines said Thursday.

Aquino is not scheduled to go to the White House for his first official trip abroad, according to Malacañang.

Bassett said it was likely that Obama and Aquino would meet and talk on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-US Summit, which the Philippines is organizing.

Aside from meeting with ASEAN leaders, "there will be private dialogues as well," Bassett said. The US government was delighted to see Mr. Aquino face the UN as it would be a "great opportunity for the Philippines to show leadership across the board," the US official said. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

UFO to hold leadership seminar for officers

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The United Filipino Organization plans to conduct a leadership seminar for all officers of its member organizations.

President Olive Yana told *Saipan Tribune* that the seminar is tentatively slated for Nov. 13.

Yana said this will be the first time that the organization will conduct a leadership seminar.

"Since UFO is the umbrella organization of Filipino groups and most of our members are officers of their respective organizations, we have an obligation to guide them on how to become effective leaders," she said.

Yana said it will be good for the members to also know their responsibilities in the community and what is required of a nonprofit organization like the UFO.

According to Yana, the leadership seminar will also train members with leadership potential so they can become future leaders of the UFO and their respective organizations.

"I hope to accomplish this, along with our usual activities, before I finish my term," she said.

Yana, who is from the Saipan Association of Filipino Skilled Workers and the Visayas and Mindanao Association, will finish her term at the end of the calendar year.

Election of new UFO officers will be held either after the *Paskong Pinoy* or on the first week of 2011.

The other current UFO officers are Melvin Malvar, VP for Administration; Ladyvir Canape, VP External; Pol Madriaga, VP Internal; Anna Mae Adaza, Secretary; Evelyn Deazeta, Asst. Secretary; Fernan Enano, Treasurer; Mylene Macapagal, Asst. Treasurer; Antonio Soriano, Auditor; Lolita Velasco and Jack Galvez, PRO; Nel Atalig, Flor Miranda, Edgardo Reyes, and Pastor Gagarin, past presidents and advisers.

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Woman admits being ma of baby left in plane's waste bin

By JEANNETTE ANDRADE
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—National Bureau of Investigation Director Magtanggol Gatdula said Thursday afternoon that a woman invited for questioning has admitted being the mother of a newborn baby thrown in the waste bin of a Gulf Air plane on a recent flight from the Middle East. He said the NBI viewed the woman at this point as "a victim."

The NBI director told reporters in a press briefing that a social worker of the Department of Social Welfare and Development informed the bureau of the woman's admission. The confession, he pointed out, was made in a casual talk between the social worker and the woman.

But even then, Gatdula said that NBI investigators will still have to await the DNA test on the woman, whose name he did not disclose, and the baby to ascertain the claim.

Gatdula added that the NBI still has to establish the facts before any charge could be brought against the woman, particularly a charge of abandonment as defined in the Civil Code in relation to article 276 of the Revised Penal Code.

"At this point, we are looking at her as a victim," he emphasized.

'SCRAP VFA' AP PHOTO/BULLIT MARQUEZ

Protesters display placards in front of riot police during a rally near the American Embassy in Manila Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010, urging Philippines President Benigno Aquino III, who is embarking on a U.S. trip Sept. 20, to take up with U.S. President Barack Obama the scrapping of the joint U.S.-Philippines military exercises known as the Visiting Forces Agreement. Thursday's protest coincided with the 16th anniversary of the rejection by the Philippine Senate of the Military Bases Agreement which pave the way for the creation of VFA.

Kidnappers flee as captive feigns heart attack

By EDWIN FERNANDEZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MIDSAYAP, North Cotabato—This one is for the books. A businessman here outsmarted his would-be kidnappers by pretending to suffer a heart attack Thursday afternoon.

Chief Inspector Eldy Magbanua, Midsayap police chief, said Frank Chong, 54, owner of FMC hardware on Quezon Avenue, pretended to be having seizures before "collapsing on the floor" as two gunmen tried to abduct him around 3:30 p.m.

The gunmen still tried to drag Chong away as he feigned the seizures.

"When he fell on the floor, one of the suspects even fired his gun in panic," Magbanua said.

"He really outsmarted his captors," he added of the burly six-foot-two businessman.

Magbanua said the would-be kidnappers fled in a van but only after the two of them were believed to have been wounded in an exchange of fire with pursuing policemen.

"There was a running gun battle. Two of the suspects were injured but they still managed to escape," Magbanua said.

He said the getaway van was later recovered by the policemen.

Magbanua said the police have alerted other businessmen in the town about possible attempts to abduct them.

In recent years, several businessmen here have fallen victim to kidnap-for-ransom groups identified with the Pentagon gang.

"Our businessmen were advised to take precautionary measures," he said.

Miss Philippines bags Miss Asia USA 2010

CALIFORNIA, United States—Miss Philippines, Ariana Manibog Varela, 19, from Los Angeles, California won the coveted title of Miss Asia USA 2010.

Varela also won best in cultural costume and best in swimsuit.

The other winners were: 1st runner up, Jenny Cho, Miss Korea; 2nd runner up, Sarah Makandura, Miss Sri Lanka; 3rd runner up, Natalie Dinatale, Miss Lebanon; 4th runner up, Jennifer Gonzalez, Miss Taiwan.

Varela is the daughter of Lana Manibog Varela and Dr. Gilbert Varela. She is also the granddaughter of former Mayor Monty Manibog and Jean Manibog of Monterey Park. This is Varela's very first pageant. With absolutely no prior experience in pageants, she swept the title over the other Asian country representatives from across the US.

Ariana was born into generations of Manibog beauties. Her mother, Lana Manibog, was former Southern California title holder and placed top finalist in Miss California USA. Her aunt, Francel Manibog Caracol, was finalist and won Queen of Oceania in Miss World 1988. And her main coach and mentor and auntie was former Binibining Pilipinas USA and winner of Binibining Pilipinas International 1982, Lisa Manibog.

Varela's lavender floral gown and cultural costume (terno) with head dress were personally designed by Filipino-American haute couture designer Joey Galon of Joey Galon Atelier in Las Vegas, Nevada and Los Angeles, California. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Philippine budget airline Cebu Pacific to go public

MANILA (AFP)—Philippine budget carrier Cebu Pacific is aiming to raise up to 725 million dollars to buy new aircraft when it lists almost a third of its shares next month, the country's stock exchange said Friday.

The airline's holding company, conglomerate JG Summit Holdings, has applied to sell about 32.19 billion pesos ($725 million), or 31 percent, worth of its shares from October 8.

It added that 70 percent of those shares have been put aside for sale in the United States as it prepares for a roadshow at the end of this month, while the rest is to be offered to local investors.

Cebu Pacific, a no-frills carrier that began flying in 1996, is aiming to raise funds for new aircraft over the next two years.

The airline planned to publicly list in 2008, but the global financial crisis forced it to temporarily shelve the idea.

Parent JG Summit Holdings is controlled by Chinese-Filipino John Gokongwei, whose family is one the country's 40 richest, according to Forbes magazine.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Girl killed, 10 others hurt in Cebu truck accident

CEBU CITY, Philippines—A 10-year-old girl died while 10 others, including six children, were injured Thursday noon when a six-wheeler truck plowed into vehicles and people in front of a school in Barangay Don Andres Soriano (DAS), Toledo City, some 50 kilometers west of Cebu City. Toledo City Police investigator SPO1 Anacleto Yang identified the fatality as Maria Teresa Tatoy. Yang said the 10 injured were rushed to the nearby Carmen Copper Company Hospital in DAS but were later transferred to a hospital in Cebu City. Some of the names of the casualties were still unavailable. Police investigation showed that a boom truck with plate number GEK 214, driven by Richard Bolo Vellarmea, 30, coming from Barangay Magdugo, Toledo City and going to Naga City rammed into a Honda motorcycle and a multicab vehicle parked along the national highway around 12:05 p.m. The multicab, in turn, hit a barangay watchman who was guiding students crossing the road towards the Don Andres Soriano Elementary School and National High School. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

3 kids drown, 2 missing in swollen Antique River

ILOILO CITY, Philippines—The school children were excited to go home early after their classes were shortened because of rain Wednesday. But tragedy struck when strong river currents broke a bamboo bridge as 15 children were crossing it in a hinterland village in Antique, officials reported Thursday. The accident happened Wednesday afternoon in the village Santiago in the municipality of Laua-an, 55 kilometers north of the Antique provincial capital of San Jose. A report from Antique police director Senior Superintendent Ruperto Floro said the strong currents of the rain-swollen Paliwan River broke the bridge, sweeping away the children who clung to parts of the bridge, trees and boulders to avoid being carried away downstream. Three of the school children died while two others remained missing as of Thursday noon, said Floro. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

4,000 families flee floods in Central Mindanao

KORONADAL CITY, Philippines—Over 4,000 families in two Central Mindanao provinces have fled their flooded villages since Monday, officials said. Lambayong town in Sultan Kudarat accounted for the largest number of evacuees—3,974 families from nine low-lying villages—Bonifacio Selma, regional disaster operations chief of the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Central Mindanao, said Wednesday. "Initial food packs have been given to the families affected," he said. Selma said that based on the report provided to them by the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council of Sultan Kudarat, about 46 other families were affected in Tacurong City. "Officials are still assessing the total damage brought about by the natural disaster. There were no reported fatalities so far (in Sultan Kudarat)," he said. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Dacer daughters sue Estrada, Lacson, 5 others in US court

MANILA, Philippines—The daughters of the late Salvador "Bubby" Dacer are seeking $50 million in civil damages from former President Joseph Estrada, Sen. Panfilo Lacson and several other people in the US District Court in San Francisco, California, in connection with the gruesome murder of their father. The sisters Carina Dacer, Sabina Dacer-Reyes, Amparo Dacer-Henson and Emily Dacer-Hungerford disclosed their action in a one-page notice to the Department of Justice made available to reporters on Friday. The notice did not say, however, what the status of the case was. Named respondents in the case, according to the notice, were deposed President Joseph Estrada, fugitive Sen. Panfilo Lacson, businessman Dante Tan, former Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. president Reynaldo Tenorio and former police officers Michael Ray Aquino, Glenn Dumlao and Vicente Arnado. This was the first time the Dacer siblings included Estrada as a respondent in the case related to the November 2000 killing of their father and his driver Emmanuel Corbito. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

3 soldiers killed in Basilan ambush

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines—Three soldiers were killed in an ambush by unidentified gunmen in Tipo-tipo town, Basilan on Thursday morning, a police official said. Chief Superintendent Bienvenido Latag, Philippine National Police chief in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, said the soldiers were patrolling Sitio (sub-village) Puno Limbonge, Barangay (village) Bohe Lebbung when they were ambushed at 7 a.m. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Student stabs teacher who berated him for sporting long hair

MANILA, Philippines—A high school student on Friday stabbed and killed his teacher who berated him for sporting long hair, according to a report by Radyo Inquirer 990. The radio report quoted police as saying that the 15-year-old sophomore student of Manuel Luis High School in Tala, Caloocan City, was reprimanded on Thursday by his teacher, Teodoro Sona, 34, inside the classroom and in front of his classmates for his long hair. The student apparently resented the teacher's action and waited for Sona on Ascorville Road, Barangay 185 in Tala, at around 6 a.m. Friday and stabbed the victim with a 12-inch knife. The victim was brought to Tala Hospital but died along the way, Rado Inquirer quoted police as saying. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

No more new songs for Gary V?

By POCHOLO CONCEPCION
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Gary Valenciano feels glad that President Noynoy Aquino has acted immediately on one of the concerns raised by the Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit.

Aquino has called the attention of the National Telecommunications Commission to implement Executive Order 255, or the law ordering radio stations with musical formats to play four local songs per hour.

"But that's a tough one," Valenciano says when the *Inquirer* asks him whether the stations will play a foreign cover song by a Pinoy artist.

Technically that's not "original Pilipino music."

Valenciano, newly elected OPM vice president for internal affairs, admits that, for now, radio may have a difficult time finding enough material, especially those with contemporary hits formats.

"Kasi hindi naman pwedeng puro lumang kanta ang patugtugin," he says.

Expanding the rule

On whether it's possible to expand the rule, like playing any song so long as it's recorded by Filipino artists (think Arnel Pineda, Charice), Valenciano nods in agreement: "Yeah, maybe we can [push for] that. I'd like to take that up with OPM,"

In hindsight, he believes there's now a clamor for singers to come up with their own material—after years of following the "practicality" of doing all-covers albums to ensure record sales.

He cites a recent all-originals album by former MYMP vocalist Juris Fernandez, which has four videos on Myx and is reportedly selling well. "For me, it's already a signal for solo acts to come up with original songs. The bands have no problem, they've been doing that all along," says Valenciano.

For his part he has picked some of his own songs, which have appeared (but generally overlooked) on previous albums, for release soon under the title "Replay."

None of these songs became hits, he says, "but when I perform them where I feel they would fit the occasion, people come up to me and say, 'How can we have a copy of that?'"

He explains it's like giving the songs a second chance, although they don't have to be played on radio.

One of the tracks included, "For You," is from his 1991 album "Shout For Joy."

Another song, "Did It Ever," has a new video and will be aired next week.

But has the 46-year-old singer-songwriter stopped writing new songs?

Valenciano says that, on the contrary, he's actually presenting new compositions on "Soul in Motion," his new concert series which opens tonight at the Music Museum.

The small gigs mark his first solo outings since his silver anniversary shows, "Live at 25," held at the Araneta Coliseum.

He points out that performing in a small venue is exactly how he wants to reach his audience now.

"'Live at 25' was my way of saying, 'You know what, this is great, and I'm gonna move on to greater things which might not be as grand, but more fulfilling than playing at big venues," he explains.

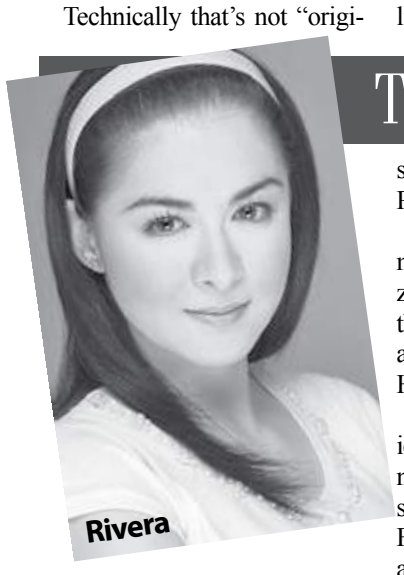
The fulfilling part includes how the crowd will react to some of his new songs.

He says that the concert's writer, Freddie Santos, was initially skeptical of the material, which he thought was half-baked.

But Valenciano insists, "Right now, this is fully baked already... Piano and voice, we can't get any purer than that."

He adds that he's also writing a few instrumentals. "There would never be lyrics to these songs," he explains. "It's just an expression that goes beyond words. It gets very emotional actually. The amount of words that come to me are too much to jot down. I just want to play. I have about three instrumentals, all unfinished, but the basic structure is there."

Team Marian vs Team Bela



By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The controversy hounding Marian Rivera, who has allegedly been bullying and threatening her "Endless Love" costar Bela Padilla, has escalated.

Bela's feisty aunt, Eva Padilla (Binoe's mom) has taken up the cudgels for her niece: "Mabait na bata si Bela. Matagal na niya kinikimkim ang pagtataray at pag-api sa kanya ni Marian. Pinakamatindi na 'yung kinulong siya sa CR at dinuro-duro … Sana si Marian maging ehemplo para sa mga umiidolo sa kanya. Kung lalala pa ito, baka sa korte na lang si Marian magpaliwanag."

Marian's camp would rather not comment. They insist that she's just being used for Bela's publicity.

But how long can Marian downplay the negative stories about her? No amount of damage control can salvage a repeat offender. Does she expect the horror stories to go away by ignoring them? Stench has a way of seeping through, no matter how hard we try to cover it up with glitz and glamour.

Starstruck

Ruffa Gutierrez turned into a fan when she interviewed Korean-American Hollywood star Daniel Henney, who's shooting a movie here with K-Pop superstar Rain.

"I was floored when he asked me to sign the copy of a magazine that I gave him with me on the cover," she said. "First time ako ma-starstruck nang ganito. He's so hot and gorgeous!"

I teased her: "What if Daniel courts you?" Ruffa could not stop blushing. I chided her some more. "Who's cuter, Cesar Flores or Daniel?" She laughed and blurted out, "No comment."

High spirits

Baron Geisler has split up with his Australia-based GF. But he was in high spirits at the Cosmo bachelor bash. Baron is in great shape. Hopefully, his heart will be in better shape, too.

Back together?

Aljur Abrenica was spotted with Rich Asuncion in a bar after the Cosmo event. Did they just bump into each other or are they back together? Aljur's team-up with Kris Bernal is on pause mode; is it the right time for Rich and Aljur's hush-hush romance to flourish?

'Annabelisms'

Nobody says it like Tita Annabelle Rama. She totally cracked us up when she was our guest in "Paparazzi"; her message to Angeli Valenciano:

"Di nagparetoke ng ilong si Ruffa. Lahat ng anak ko nakatingin sa langit ang ilong. Mana kay Eddie. Ako kahit ganito lang ang ilong ko, di naman nakadapa. 'Wag kang makialam sa mga artista na nagpaparetoke—pera naman nila 'yun. Ikaw ang may kailangan ng retoke. Anong sinasabi mo na kamukha na ni Ruffa si Gretchen Barretto? May pinapahiwatig ka ba na kung nagparetoke si Greta, pati si Ruffa nagparetoke? Ang kilay ni Gretchen di gumagalaw!"

About being the newest Twitter sensation: "Gusto akong i-follow ng mga tao kasi alam nila na lahat ng sinasabi ko ay totoo. Di ako nag-iimbento ng kwento. Sorry na lang si Ruffa. Natalo ko na siya sa dami ng followers ko."

I get a kick out of reading her tweets especially when she replies to her fab daughter Ruffa. One of her tweets to Ruffa:

"'Wag kang ma-insecure sa byuti ko, mga tao ang tumatawag na Twitter sensation sa akin, hindi ko binili ang title na 'yan."

She monitors Ruffa online and tweets: "Umuwi ka nang maaga para wala kang eyebags sa press con mo bukas."

When asked about "Monster Mom II," Tita A tweets: "Ready na ko basta may budget si Mother Lily."

And to her growing followers, she tweets: "Mga dong at day, kailangan ding mag-rest na byuti ko, hindi puwedeng 24 hours akong nagtu-tweet, bukas naman uli."

Kapuso

Sam Pinto is overjoyed to be a Kapuso. But isn't she wary that some quarters might call her an ingrata for leaving ABS-CBN where she started out in "Pinoy Big Brother?"

"I'm with Viva now," she explains. "They've been in the biz for a long time so they know what's best for me. I acknowledge that PBB and ABS gave me my first break. Dala-dala ko 'yun wherever I go. Nothing can take away my gratitude sa kanila."

Who are her crushes among the Kapuso actors? "Wala na munang crush," she says. "Baka ma-issue uli ako, like when I said na crush ko si Gerald Anderson (laughs)."

What can she say to her detractors who insist that she's just a pretty face with zero acting capability? "I now have an acting coach," she says. "I take their constructive criticism as a challenge. I will really work on my acting. It's not everyday you get paired off in a movie with Bong Revilla. I won't blow my chance." Sam's 'Someday' is slowly but surely unfolding.

Surprise?

Will Regine Velasquez really be wearing a red wedding gown designed by the country's pride, Monique Lhuillier, when she weds Ogie Alcasid in December?

"I do not know much about Reg's gown," Ogie says. "I want to be surprised. We are keeping the preparations low-key. Ryan Cayabyab is writing the bridal march. I'm asking my friends Lea Salonga, Gary V, Janno, Jay R and Kyla to sing. Martin Nievera still has to confirm if he will be in town."

Torn between networks

Shalala is torn between GMA 7 and TV5. "I am tempted to accept TV5's offer to host a daily radio show with Tita Cristy Fermin aside from hosting Juicy," he says. "But it's a tough decision 'cause I would have to leave my radio show on dzBB with Kuya Germs. Alam ko maraming magtatampo at baka 'di ako maintindihan. Tumanda na ako working with GMA."

"Thankful nga ako na sa edad kong 'to, may nagtitiwala pa sa akin. Sana pagdating ng oras na mag-decide ako, maging happy lahat. Ayoko nang may kaaway. I'm here to spread laughter and joy. Chos!"

Ruffa Gutierrez

'Filipino experience' has traumatized Ruffa

By MARINEL R. CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Ruffa Gutierrez has admitted she caused the rift between her mom, Annabelle Rama, and talent manager Angeli Pangilinan-Valenciano, but she is confident it will be resolved soon.

"I was offended by some things that Tita Angeli said about me, and I told my mom. I didn't know that, an hour later, she would run into Tita Angeli," said Ruffa during a media gathering for her new TV5 show, "Star Factor." She refused to specify what Angeli said.

"The things now coming out in the papers are all delayed reaction," Ruffa noted.

Ruffa, 36, also said she had no interest in having a boyfriend soon, especially after her recent "Filipino experience."

She meant John Lloyd Cruz, with whom she had a short-lived relationship. The actor dated Shaina Magdayao shortly after their breakup.

Ruffa denied involvement with Venezuelan Cesar Flores, president of Smartmatic-Asia Pacific. "It's best for us to remain friends. I want to concentrate on work and my kids."

Ruffa hopes the next guy is for keeps: "I don't want to keep jumping from one relationship to another."

"Star Factory" is a weekly reality talent search where her mom is one of the jurors. Ruffa said working on one show has brought them closer. "Mom is so funny," she said, "always trying to start a fight with me, even on Twitter. I told her, 'can't you text me na lang?'"

"Star Factor" premiered Sept. 12. The winner brings home P1 million in cash and a two-story house (and lot). Completing the five-member jury are: Audie Gemora, Jose Javier Reyes, Raymund Isaac and Ryan Cayabyab.

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Televised trial

The Estrada impeachment trial was a blockbuster that arguably surpassed the most popular *teleserye* in audience rating. Work in practically the entire Metro Manila, and in most other cities, came to a stop while the engrossing trial was being televised. It had all the elements: for the first time in Philippine history a president was on trial; it had money—it involved hundreds of millions in jueteng proceeds and government funds; it had sex—luxurious mansions were built for the president's mistresses; and it starred a cast of brilliant lawyers, including a former chief justice of the Supreme Court and luminaries of the legislature and the bar.

Now there may be another TV blockbuster—if the courts will allow it. There is a proposal to televise live the Maguindanao massacre, and Malacañang and journalists' organizations are in favor of it. The decision now lies with the judiciary, specifically the regional trial court that is trying the case and the Supreme Court, which imposed restrictions on the media in its coverage of the trial.

We do not see any major reason why what could arguably be called "the trial of the century" should be closed to live TV coverage. It is a very important case; all the details that could possibly be divulged to the people should be made available to them. Perhaps portions of the trial where testimony about the alleged rape of some of the women victims could be held behind closed doors. But other than that the entire trial should be televised so that the whole nation and the entire world would know about how a political Frankenstein's monster was created and given the impression that it could do anything and enjoy perpetual impunity from prosecution and punishment.

Already we have a hint of the sangfroid, the absolute cold-bloodedness of the accused Ampatuan clan from the testimony of the first witness, Lakmudin Saliao, a house help of the Ampatuans. He said the Ampatuan clan planned the massacre of a political rival, his supporters and a group of media men accompanying them over dinner and amid laughter. The massacre left 57 people dead, including 32 media workers. It was as if they were discussing the slaughter of dozens of chicken for a feast.

Sen. Joker Arroyo has warned that with almost 200 defendants and 300 witnesses it could take 200 years for justice to be meted out to both the perpetrators and victims of the Maguindanao massacre. If it should take long to prosecute the case, let it go the whole route. Fiat justitia, ruat coelum. Let justice be done though the heavens fall. But surely something can be done to speed things up. Probably the number of witnesses can be limited to the most important ones and marathon hearings can be held. Judge Jocelyn Solis-Reyes of Quezon City Trial Court Branch 221 could also be relieved of her other cases so she can focus on the massacre trial.

The Maguindanao massacre trial should be no less important than the Estrada case, in which the fortune of one man was involved. Here the meting out of justice to 57 victims and 200 defendants is involved. The people also should know how a political Frankenstein's monster was pampered and allowed to grow by a Machiavellian president to the point that they thought they would perpetually escape the clutches of justice. Televise the trial and let the people know.

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Being human

There's The Rub
By CONRADO DE QUIROS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The church wants us to pray for healing and forgiveness.

What has happened "has deeply wounded our psyche and soul for its inexplicable violence and senseless brutality," says Rev. Fr. Genaro Diwa, director of the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission. "That this tragic scenario played out under the glaring, and oftentimes irresponsible, coverage of the media, has magnified the hurt and pain of the family, friends, countrymen of those who perished…. Let us not allow the power of hatred to blind us but instead [let us] discover the creative power of forgiveness and understanding to stop the cycle of violence and hatred. Let us pray for all those who died, that they may pass on to complete freedom, to the land where there is neither tear nor sorrow, nor anger and pain."

Cebu Archbishop Ricardo J. Cardinal Vidal says the same thing: "We should ask the Chinese for forgiveness and understanding as we express our deepest sympathies for their loss and we'll join them in prayers that their dearly departed will rest in peace and the wounded recover in due time."

Well, two things.

One is that while I too have my beef with the way the broadcast media covered the hostage-taking, none of that includes the fact that it covered the hostage-taking. Notwithstanding that it exposed the police force to public ridicule, notwithstanding that it exposed the government to criticism, notwithstanding that it exposed the country to shame.

I agree: Media should be more responsible, more intelligent, more sensitive. Or more to the point, media should be less reckless, less shrill, less sensationalist. But criticizing the media for making us look like fools is shooting the messenger. The problem is not the image, the problem is the reality. It is not media's fault that we insist on looking like fools. I say this in particular because we do not lack for people who keep criticizing media for dwelling on the "negative" and who keep insisting that it start projecting the "positive." Projecting the positive is not the job of journalism, it is the job of PR. We want to project the positive, let us do things right.

I say this moreover because we keep saying these things and we'll soon be back to the situation we had during martial law and shortly after 9/11 when the authorities could forbid media from covering certain events out of "national security." Every time I hear that term, I react to it as I do to a violent allergy. Like religion, a lot of crimes have been committed in its name. We agree to it, and a lot of suspects, not to speak of hostage-takers, will get "salvaged" and we'd be no wiser for it. Better to err on the side of freedom than of curtailment.

Two is that while I agree that we should hold on to our beliefs, nothing and no one ought to prevent us from doing so, we should also consider how we're coming across with it. It is one thing to sound pious and prayerful, it is another to sound blithe and platitudinous.

Maybe before we ponder how deeply wounded our psyche and souls are by the inexplicable violence and senseless brutality that have played out before us, we should start by just seeing how deeply wounded the kin of the victims are, how battered their psyche and souls have been by the inexplicable violence and senseless brutality that have played out before them. The tragedy has not befallen us, or not us first and foremost, it has befallen them. Our thoughts and feelings should not go out to us, or not us first and last, it should go out to them.

As I said yesterday, I believe the one thing the world minds is not our lack of sympathy, it is our lack of empathy. It is not our lack of formal expressions of contriteness, it is our lack of spontaneous expressions of feeling their pain. It is not our lack of gripe for the perpetrator of the deed, it is our lack of grief for the victims of the deed.

Religion may be our strength, but it is also our weakness. I've always been hugely bothered each time tragedy strikes this country, by way of an earthquake like the one that flattened Baguio in 1990, a killer flood like "Ondoy," or a massacre like the one in Maguindanao, when I hear someone, a prince of the Church or functionary of the State, say that we can at least take comfort in the fact that the departed have gone to a place past tear and sorrow, anger and pain. I don't know that that really comforts the afflicted. In fact I don't know that that doesn't hit them like a slap in the face.

I've always thought that what comforted the afflicted, if anything can do so in their hour of deepest affliction, was just being stunned into silence at the awesomeness of the loss, at the intolerability of the pain, at the gaping void that has welled up inside those the dead have left behind. Maybe that will pass in time. Maybe we'll meet again in time in a place past tear and sorrow, anger and pain. But that has no place in this moment of time, in this grain of sand of time that holds a universe of loss and bereft-ness. Those words will only sound hollow. Those words will only sound empty.

For the moment, the only thing you can really do is just be there to share the anguish, to feel connected by a common mortality, to be astounded and mortified by the fragility of life. For the moment, the only thing you can really do is reel from the staggering reality, the nightmare from which you cannot wake, that a child, a husband, a wife, a friend, a loved one will no longer be there to share the laughter and the sorrow, the anger and the pain. For the moment, the only thing you can really do is be crushed by the weight of despair, and being so learn if only by the instinct for survival to discover the preciousness of life.

That may not be being terribly religious, but that is at least being terribly human.

Taft and spirits

Looking Back
By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Taft Avenue was an elegant part of Manila smothered by the LRT. When the trains were designed to run above, rather than under the ground, the posts took over the center of the avenue, resulting in traffic. The shadows cast by the concrete supports of the rails killed whatever small plants were in the area as they had been deprived of sunlight. The path of the LRT would be more bearable if the infrastructure were painted in a bright color and lighted at night, but everywhere it passed it brought urban blight except for the stops that have since been taken over by commercial establishments, further choking traffic flow. Don't get me wrong, the LRT is a boon to the modern commuter—it is fast, comfortable and economical. You get a different view of the city from the elevated path. But everything below has gone to seed.

From the few remaining mansions on Taft Avenue, including the Apostolic Nunciature, you can imagine that it was a place that has seen better days, like a society matron in need of Vicky Belo's magic. De La Salle University was built on Taft Avenue at a time when it was still a genteel district.

Taft and Harrison are the two Manila streets always threatened with renaming. Taft is in greater danger than Harrison because Francis Burton Harrison was one of the well-loved American governors-general. Harrison even willed that he be buried in the Philippines and so his corpse was shipped back from the U.S. and now lies in the Manila North Cemetery.

William Howard Taft (1857-1939) rose to become the 27th president of the United States of America and later 10th chief justice of the Supreme Court. At the turn of the 20th century, he came to Manila as president of the Philippine Commission tasked to investigate the conditions in the archipelago in order to advise President William McKinley on the advisability of establishing a civil government to replace the military administration of the islands after the Spanish-American War.

Taft is best remembered for his size. He weighed over 300 pounds and was the butt of many "fat" jokes. There are two photos of him taken in the Philippines, one showing him mounted on a pony in Baguio and the other mounted on a carabao. It is said that he sent a cable to Secretary of War Elihu Root saying that he had just come from a pleasant pony ride in Baguio. And Roots quick reply was, "How is horse?"

Then there is the story about Taft being the most gallant man in Washington because he was once on a crowded streetcar and he gave his seat to three old women.

Two years ago, the U.S. National Archives mounted an exhibit called "Big" and one of the crowd drawers was a replica of the custom-made bathtub installed in the White House for Taft that could accommodate more than a pair of normal size adults. The original bathtub was damaged when it was removed, but the specifications are preserved in the U.S. National Archives. For serious academics the bathtub was a trivial detail, but for perceptive visitors it said a lot more about Taft than being fat. The caption on the tub quotes Taft on his post-White House diet:

"I can truthfully say that I never felt any younger in all my life. Too much flesh is bad for any man. I have dropped potatoes entirely from my bill of fare, and also bread in all forms. Pork is also tabooed, as well as other meats in which there is a large percentage of fat. All vegetable except potatoes are permitted, and of meats, that of all fowls is permitted. In the fish line, I abstain from salmon and bluefish, which are the fat members of the fish family. I am also careful not to drink more than two glasses of water at each meal. I abstain from wines and liquors of all kinds, as well as tobacco in every form."

Taft's diet resulted in substantial weight loss, but this is not attributed to his will power. He lost a lot of weight when he left government service, suggesting that his girth was not genetic but stress-related.

When Taft was in the Philippines he was well-liked because he was like a living Santa Claus. He took to the Philippine way of doing things—all discussions, all decisions, were made in the context of a meal. There is even a lengthy reference to alcohol and spirits in an official U.S. Senate document, titled "Lands Held for Ecclesiastical or Religious Uses in the Philippine Islands."

Few Filipinos know that one of Taft's delicate tasks was to prepare for negotiations with the Vatican, under Pope Leo XIII, in 1902 regarding confiscated Church land and property following the Philippine Revolution, and also the issue of allowing Spanish friars expelled from the Philippines to return. To get a sense of the situation Taft interviewed all the major religious superiors in the Philippines on the extent of their land-holdings, as well as their relationship with the Filipinos. In terms of transcript length, the Dominicans topped the list with 16 pages, followed by the Franciscans (12), the Augustinians (10), and the Jesuits (3). The Benedictines filled one page. Taft did all the talking. At one point he even suggested that the monks pursue an alternative source of income, like making liqueur in Manila as their order did in Europe.

If the Benedictines took Taft's advice, maybe San Beda College would not have been established and instead they would have a distillery or a brewery to rival San Miguel.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

SESSION BREAK

Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), right, gestures as he talks to Republican members of the House during Monday's session. Also in photo are, from left, Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), partly hidden, Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), and Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan).

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CORAL REEF TASK FORCE MEETING

American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono and CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial attend the opening ceremonies for the two-day 2010 U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe on Wednesday. The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force is one of the foremost policy groups guiding national and international coral reef conservation.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CRIME STOPPERS AWARD

NMI Crime Stoppers program coordinator Jason Tarkong receives the 2010 Best Television Public Service Announcement award for communities less than 75,000 from a Crime Stoppers International representative during its 2010 Annual Conference last Aug. 23-25 held in Halifax, Nova Scotia in Canada.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

JOETEN CLEANUP

Employees of Joeten Motor Co. team up with Ford Motor Co. to sponsor a community cleanup in observance of "The Global Week of Caring" last Sept. 11, 2010. The group picked up trash and debris from the Minatchom Atdao to the Joeten Motors offices in San Jose.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 14th birthday to Sierra Calvo! We love you and God bless! Greetings come from dad, mom and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SATURDAY STRIDES

Participants of the Commonwealth Cancer Association's *Second Saturday Strides* show off samples of Ensure and Glucerna from Micronesian Brokers and bottled water from Foremost Foods at the Minatchom Atdao after the walk on Sept. 11. The next *Strides* is scheduled for Oct. 9, 2010. For more information, or to find out how you can contribute, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Youngstyle

Obama urges students to be tolerant of each other

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—President Barack Obama, in a message Tuesday to America's students, urged them to ignore bullies and treat each other with kindness and respect, saying part of the beauty of life "lies in its diversity."

Obama acknowledged that school is tough and that it can be made even tougher by the presence of classroom bullies who make fun of students and try to make those who are different from them feel bad.

He said students should ignore the bulliers and celebrate the differences among them.

"What I want all of you, if you do take away one thing from my speech, I want you to take away the notion that life is precious, and part of what makes it so wonderful is its diversity," Obama said from a Philadelphia school during his second back-to-school address.

"We shouldn't be embarrassed by the things that make us different. We should be proud of them," he said. "Because it's the things that make us different that make us who we are, that make us unique."

After the White House announced last year's speech, some parents threatened to pull their kids from class during Obama's remarks. Conservatives also accused him of trying to inject politics into the classroom.

A similar outcry has been missing this year.

Schools were not required to show the speech, as was the case last year. Some schools also gave parents the option of having their kids participate in another activity during the broadcast. As with last year's speech, the White House released the text a day early so people could read it and judge for themselves.

Speaking from the auditorium at the Julia R. Masterman Laboratory and Demonstration School for fifth- through 12th-graders, Obama urged students to stay in school, study hard and take responsibility for their education. He said the nation's ability to compete globally in the 21st century depends on an educated work force.

He also said nothing is beyond their reach as long as they dream big, work hard and focus on learning.

"Nobody gets to write your destiny but you," Obama said.

AP
President Barack Obama is introduced by Kelly Ca, a senior at Julia R. Masterman School in Philadelphia, Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2010, before delivering remarks at his second annual back-to-school speech.

Smoking bans help curb kids' severe asthma attacks

ATLANTA (AP)—New research shows that smoking bans spare many children with asthma from being hospitalized, a finding that suggests smoke-free laws have even greater health benefits than previously believed.

Other studies have charted the decline in adult heart attack rates after smoking bans were adopted. The new study, conducted in Scotland, looked at asthma-related hospitalizations of kids, which fell 13 percent a year after smoking was barred in 2006 from workplaces and public buildings, including bars and restaurants.

Before the ban, admissions had been rising 5 percent a year in Scotland, which has a notoriously poor health record among European countries.

Earlier U.S. studies, in Arizona and Kentucky, reached similar conclusions. But this was the largest study of its kind—and offered the strongest case that smoking bans can bring immediate health improvements for many people.

ONLINE:
The New England Journal of Medicine: http://www.nejm.org

"The effects of smoke-free laws are way bigger than you would expect," said Stanton Glantz, a University of California-San Francisco researcher who specializes in the health effects of smoking. He was not involved in the new study, published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

Cigarette smoke is a trigger for asthma attacks. So researchers reasoned that tracking severe cases was perhaps the best way to measure a smoking ban's immediate effect on children.

"Acute asthma is the tip of the iceberg," more easily tracked than less severe breathing problems, ear infections and other problems seen in children that have been linked to a caregiver's smoking, said Terry Pechacek of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's office on smoking and health.

About 40 percent of American children who go to hospitals because of asthma attacks live with smokers—a high proportion, given that only about 21 percent of U.S. adults smoke, according to CDC statistics.

Smoking bans have become increasingly common in the United States, where 35 states and the District of Columbia have laws that bar smoking in workplaces or restaurants and bars, or both. And more than 3,100 cities and towns have their own restrictions, according to the American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation.

The push continues: This week, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced city officials will pursue a broad extension of the city's smoking ban to parks, beaches and pedestrian plazas throughout the city.

Many European countries—including Britain, France and Germany—forbid smoking in all public places. But Italy, Greece and some others have been slower to adopt the bans, sometimes simply limiting smoking in certain areas.

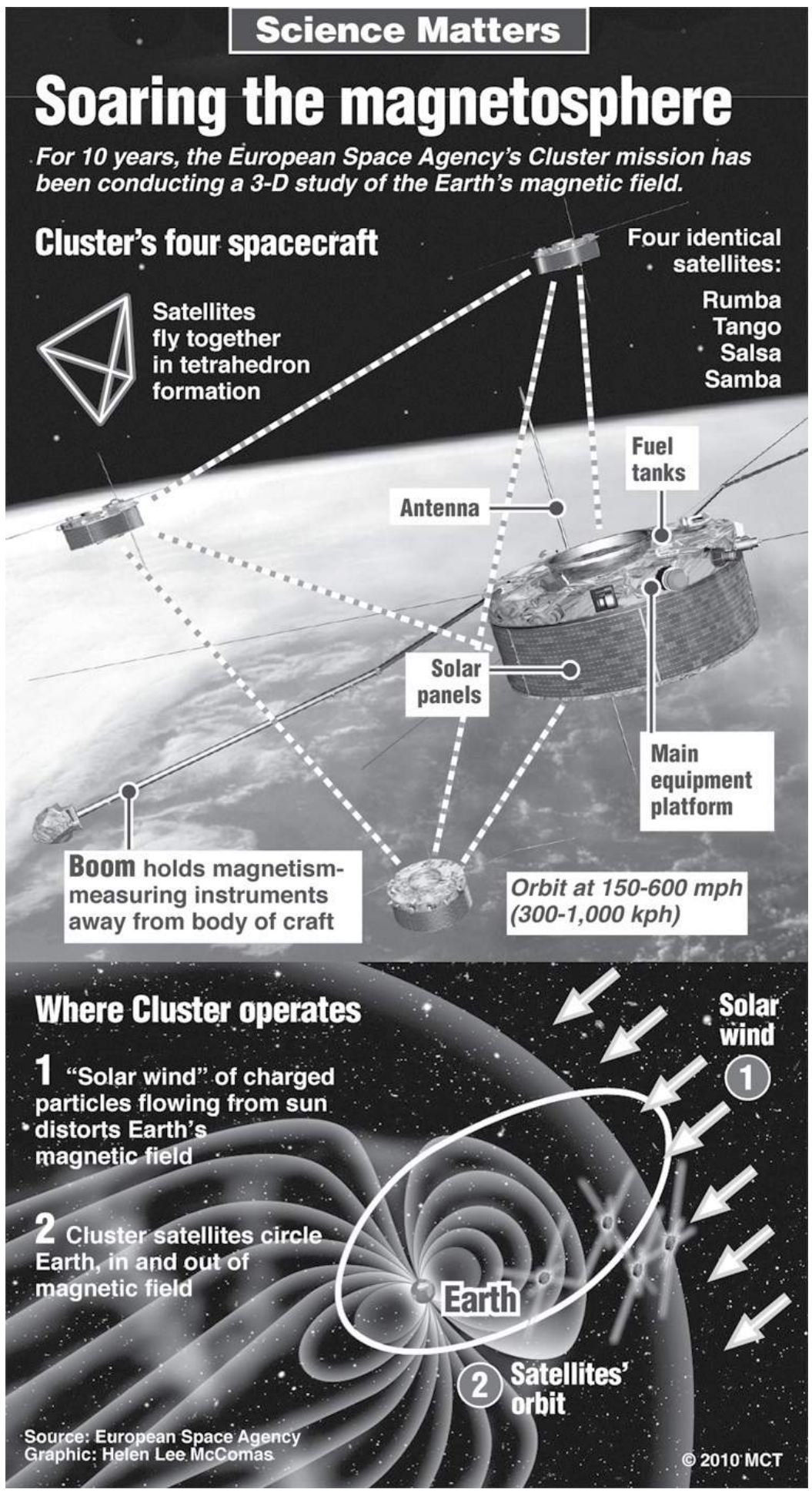
In the new report, researchers looked at emergency hospital admissions for asthma at all of Scotland's hospitals from January 2000 through October 2009. The data was for kids age 14 and younger.

They found that hospital admissions for children's asthma attacks were increasing by 5 percent per year before the ban, reaching about six admissions per day on average in January 2006. But afterward, children's asthma attacks declined by 13 percent a year, falling to below five admissions per day in October 2009.

The ban largely targets places where adults work and socialize. But there seems to be a ripple effect: It made smoking less popular and led significant numbers of adult smokers to cut back or quit their habit at home, where the kids were, said Dr. Jill Pell, a study author.

"People are choosing to protect their kids even when they don't have to," said Pell, a University of Glasgow professor of public health.

That's consistent with U.S. research, which has shown that smoking bans were followed by a decline in smoking at home, Pechacek said.


Science Matters
Soaring the magnetosphere
For 10 years, the European Space Agency's Cluster mission has been conducting a 3-D study of the Earth's magnetic field.
Cluster's four spacecraft
Four identical satellites:
Rumba
Tango
Salsa
Samba
Satellites fly together in tetrahedron formation
Fuel tanks
Antenna
Solar panels
Main equipment platform
Boom holds magnetism-measuring instruments away from body of craft
Orbit at 150-600 mph (300-1,000 kph)
Where Cluster operates
Solar wind
1 "Solar wind" of charged particles flowing from sun distorts Earth's magnetic field
2 Cluster satellites circle Earth, in and out of magnetic field
Earth
2 Satellites' orbit
Source: European Space Agency
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas
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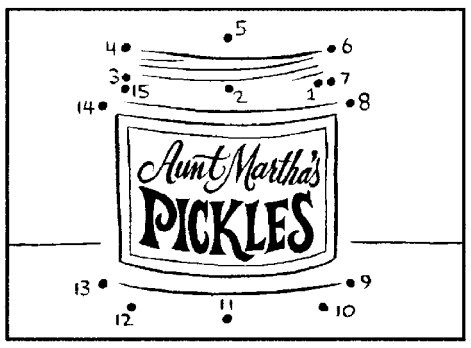

WHEN IS A DOOR NOT A DOOR? Connect the dots and find out.

Answer: "When it's a jar."

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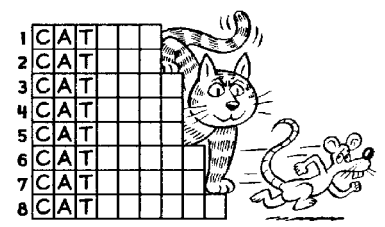
Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

THE CAT'S "MEOW" PUZZLE!

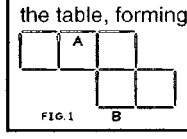


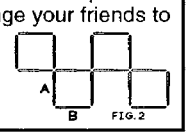
You'll be sitting in the "catbird's seat" if you finish this one. To the left is a stack of eight words, each of which begins with the word "cat." Using the following hints, see if you can catch them in less than five minutes

1. An easily remembered tune.
2. A short rest.
3. A tomato favorite. (Var.)
4. A disapproving whistle.
5. Found at big parties.
6. Found in swamps.
7. Great for moving heavy objects.
8. A well-known slogan.

Answers:
1. Catchy. 2. Catnap. 3. Catchup. 4. Catcall. 5. Caterer. 6. Cattails. 7. Catapult. 8. Catchword

A "PICKY" PROBLEM! Here's a neat little wager. Place 16 toothpicks on the table, forming five squares as shown in fig. 1. Challenge your friends to move two of them to new positions so that you will have only four equal squares. The solution is shown in fig. 2





FIND THE SEVEN WORDS PUZZLE! In the word square at the right, we've removed six of the letters to spell out the word "PLANET." Can you replace these letters in the squares so that you will have four 3-letter words across and three 4-letter words down? Time limit: 60 seconds.

P	A	
L		E
A	S	E
N	T	E

Answers: (Across): Pat, ale, see, ten. (Down): Past, alee, teen.

Illustrated by David Coulson

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was American author and philosopher Eric Hoffer who made the following sage observation: "Rudeness is the weak man's imitation of strength."

■ If you were to have a perfectly dry mouth, you wouldn't be able to taste a single thing. Researchers conducted an experiment in which they placed salt on a subject's dry tongue, and the subject reported absolutely no taste at all. Once a drop of saliva was added, though, the taste came through clearly.

■ According to the makers of the Stetson, a 10-gallon hat actually holds only about three quarts of liquid.

■ During the third century, Saint Lawrence of Rome, a deacon to Pope Sixtus II, was burned to death during a series of persecutions of priests and deacons. Legend has it that while he was on the fire, he turned to his executioners and said, "This side's done; turn me over and have a bite." It was for this reason that he was named the patron saint of butchers, roasters and comedians.

■ The average robin reportedly has nearly 3,000 feathers. Makes you wonder who did the counting.

■ Most people probably are aware of the fact that Franklin Delano Roosevelt is the only American president who was elected to more than two terms in office—he served three full terms and died during his fourth term in office. Despite the fact that he was an incredibly popular president, however, in none of his four elections did he carry his home county of Dutchess, New York.

■ If you have a severe food allergy, peanuts are the most common culprit, followed, in order, by shellfish, fish, tree nuts and eggs.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Computers are incredibly fast, accurate and stupid. Human beings are incredibly slow, inaccurate and brilliant. Together they are powerful beyond imagination."—Albert Einstein

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MAGIC MAZE

— SNAKE : NORTH AMERICA

R D I E B Y V C R O L I F C Z
W E E T Q N K O I F D C Z W U
R E T L P M J R H A E C Z X U
Y S L R I N G N E C K Q N W L
J S G T A A E H T H C Z O X O
V T S R T G T P E N P B N G L
J X H O K A T P L M N O I E C
A Y O W L V R N R I T D G R P
N L K F I G I O A A N U H G E
C B Z X M W W R C I H M T U S
R P O M L J I G S E G S D B A

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Corn	Glossy	Mud	Scarlet
Flathead	Gopher	Night	Sharp-tailed
Fox	Indigo	Rainbow	Worm
Giant garter	Milk	Ringneck	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	x		–		19
+		÷		÷	
	÷		x		15
x		+		x	
	+		x		16
13		9		2	

1 2 3 4 5 5 6 7 9

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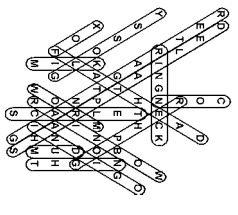
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

	2		9		13
16	2	x	7	+	1
	x		+		x
15	5	x	3	÷	9
	÷		÷		+
19	5	–	6	x	4

Warts keep puppy home from day care

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I have a 1-year-old golden retriever, "Hal," and he has contracted puppy warts. I have been told there is no treatment for this, and the only recommendations I've received are to give him multivitamins and an occasional treat with honey on it. I'm hoping this will clear up in the next few weeks, as I usually put him in doggy day care two or three days a week, and they won't allow him as this is extremely contagious. Do you have any tips on any other form of treatment that would clear this up?—Sue, via e-mail

DEAR SUE: Unfortunately, because puppy warts are caused by a virus, there is no treatment that will cure Hal quickly. The infection has to clear up on its own. Multivitamins will help keep Hal physically strong so that his immune system keeps working to get rid of the virus, but other than that, time is the only cure.

Puppy warts normally clear up after about 45 days. Be sure to just let them go away on their own, and don't try to remove them yourself.

It is inconvenient for your puppy to be banished from day care during this period, but hang in there. If you're unable to stay with Hal all day or check in on him during your workday, ask a friend to stop in and spend some time with him so he's not by himself in the house all day.

If there's one bright spot of news, it's this: Once Hal recovers from puppy warts, he won't catch them again.

■ ■ ■

Have a question about your pet? Contact Sam at ask@pawscorner.com., or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more pet advice and resources at www.pawscorner.com.

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Jungle birthday party for your preschooler

Donna's Day Creative family fun
by Donna Erickson

If there's a birthday in your house this month, go on a safari! A birthday party safari that is, right in your own backyard or neighborhood park.

"A jungle-themed party is always a roaring success for the preschool-age birthday kid," says Nancy Troffey, a creative 55-year-old mom and grandmother with more than 20 years of experience directing preschool programs and summer camps. "Three's and four's are simply fascinated with wild animals. They can't get enough of jungle-themed picture books, storytelling, games and puppets. When given the chance, they'll jump right into pretending to act and make noises like their favorite animals, too."

It's easy and inexpensive to plan your preschool child's birthday-party adventure around this popular theme. Here are some basics to get you started:

Mixer Activity

As young party guests arrive, play a jungle sounds CD to set the scene. Give them something to do right away to help them feel comfortable with the surroundings and meeting new friends. Let them try on and choose a safari-style hat, and then decorate their own safari water canteen with animal stickers. The kids can hang it around their neck for the party. (Create the safari water canteens beforehand.)

For each canteen, you'll need:

One small 10-ounce plastic or metal bottle filled with water and capped

One 42-inch strip of 1-inch-wide animal print ribbon or cotton fabric cut with pinking shears

One 3-by-10-inch rectangle of craft foam or poster board

Wild animal stickers

Directions: Glue the underside of the midpoint of the ribbon/fabric strip to the base of the bottle. Lift the halves of the strip upward evenly on each side. Glue the craft foam rectangle around the bottle and over the ribbon/fabric strip to secure them in place. Tie the loose ends of the strips in a knot.

Safari Eats:

■ Peanut butter and banana finger sandwiches

■ Banana pudding with fresh fruit and animal crackers on top

■ Cookies made with animal-shape cookie cutters and coconut sprinkled over the frosting

■ Peanuts in the shell

■ Jungle juice (sparkling water mixed with fruit juice).

Activities:

■ Play a safari game and look for hidden stuffed animals and plastic critters

■ Make paper bag animal puppets

■ Take a photo of each child, print from your computer, and let them frame it on an inexpensive frame to take home as a party favor.

Tip: Enlist a neighborhood teen "helper" to plan games and interact with the energetic kids at the party.

Coming in next week's column: Make an easy jungle rain stick toy.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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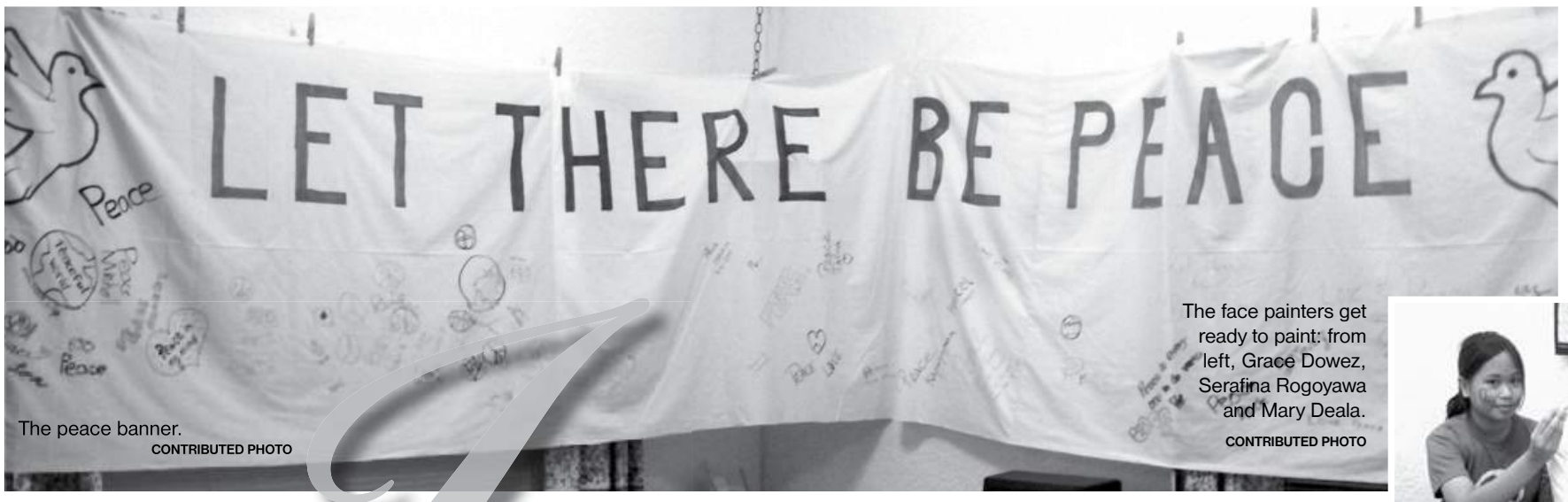
Life & Style

IMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Second International Peace Day celebration tomorrow



The peace banner.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The face painters get ready to paint: from left, Grace Dowez, Serafina Rogoyawa and Mary Deala.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Immanuel United Methodist Church in Chalan Kanoa again invites the public to the second of three free International Peace Day Celebrations tomorrow, Sept. 19, from noon to 2pm.

As shown in photo, Serafina Rogoyawa, Grace Dowez and Mary Deala are among many IUMC members ready to help everyone celebrate the dream of world peace.

Grace Dowez, who does much of IUMC's artwork, said after last week's peace face painting: "It was wonderful so many young kids came. Everything was great and very fun."

On her birthday today, Serafina Rogoyawa reflected: "Face painting is really fun. As kids looked in the mirror it was great to hear them say they loved their painted faces."

Although Mary Deala face paints, she directed the making of Peace Cranes. She said, "Many made extra peace cranes to hang for the Candlelight Peace Vigil on Tuesday, Sept. 21, from 7pm to 7:30pm."

The public is warmly invited to the Candlelight Peace Vigil on Sept. 21, the actual International Peace Day, joining with millions similarly celebrating this date proclaimed by the United Nations in 1981.

This Sunday afternoon's second all free peace games and events will include: making peace and love balloons, peace thaumatropes, world peace puzzle, peace memory games, "holding up the world" game and others. Peace messages can again be added to the peace wall and peace banner. Create your own simple peace snack. And, of course, peace face painting with washable allergic-free face paint and making peace cranes. Meet new friends and have a great time.

"We believe these are the first celebrations of International Peace Day on Saipan and it's a wonderful opportunity to be part of this worldwide celebration," said Pastor Millie Carroll.

The Candlelight Peace Vigil, games, and projects are non-political, non-religious, and not against any specific war—only emphasizing the worldwide theme of peace.

The Candlelight Vigil and all games, projects are all appropriate for young and old. Simple refreshments follow the vigil and a final opportunity to add messages to the peace wall and peace banner before photos are sent of both to the United Nations to include in their peace records.

All of Saipan is invited to the free peace games and activities on Sunday, from noon to 2pm, and the Candlelight Peace Vigil on Tuesday, Sept. 21.

The Immanuel United Methodist Church in Chalan Kanoa is on Chalan Kanoa Driveand Barbara Avenue (east of Town Center and Beach Road, near Mt. Carmel Cathedral.) For further information, contact Millie Carroll at 322-6158. ***(PR)***

Lennon killer forgets his other potential targets

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—John Lennon's killer could recall at his parole board hearing this month that he had considered shooting Johnny Carson or Elizabeth Taylor instead, but he couldn't remember that he also thought about targeting Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and others.

The Sept. 7 interview at Attica prison in western New York, transcripts of which were released Thursday, was 55-year-old Mark David Chapman's sixth appearance before parole officials since he became eligible for release in 2000.

Chapman

In rare media interviews, Chapman has listed Onassis among potential targets but said in the parole interview he could recall only Carson and Taylor.

"I was going through that in my mind the other day; I knew you would probably ask that," he told the panel via videoconference. "... I lose memory of perhaps the other two."

Chapman was sentenced to 20 years to life in prison after firing five shots outside the Dakota apartment house on Dec. 8, 1980, hitting Lennon four times in front of his wife, Yoko Ono, and others. He pleaded guilty to second-degree murder.

As he has said in the past, he told officials he chose Lennon because the ex-Beatle was more accessible.

"I had a list of people and he was at the top of the list, and he seemed more accessible to me," he said when asked why he chose Lennon. He said Lennon's Manhattan apartment building "wasn't quite as cloistered" as spots where he could find the others.

"It wasn't about them, necessarily, it was just about me," Chapman told the parole board. "It was all about me at the time."

He continued: "If it wasn't Lennon, it could have been someone else."

According to an interview printed in People magazine in 1987, other potential targets included Lennon's former bandmate Paul McCartney, actor George C. Scott, then-Hawaii Gov. George Ariyoshi and then-President Ronald Reagan.

He said that his motivation was instant notoriety but that he now realizes he "made a horrible decision to end another human being's life for reasons of selfishness."

"I felt that by killing John Lennon I would become somebody and instead of that I became a murderer and murderers are not somebodies," he told the parole board.

Chapman also told the board he is in good health and works as a porter and a law library clerk.

Oprah picks Franzen's 'Freedom' for book club

NEW YORK (AP)—Oprah Winfrey has forgiven Jonathan Franzen.

Nine years after picking Franzen's "The Corrections" for her book club and then canceling his appearance on her show after he expressed ambivalence over her endorsement, Winfrey has chosen his new novel, "Freedom." The talk show host is not scheduled to announce her pick until Friday, but The Associated Press on Thursday purchased a copy that had a book club sticker on the front.

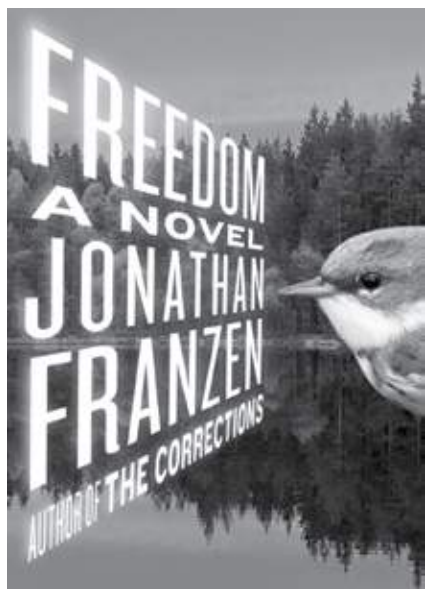
Three bookstores had previously told the AP that "Freedom" had been selected.

Winfrey's decision tells a story she loves well, one of redemption, and cites a book that itself redeems a troubled Minnesota-based family. Released in late August, "Freedom" was virtually canonized by critics before publication and has been topping best-seller lists even without Oprah's approval. Franzen was the subject of a Time Magazine cover story, titled "Great American Novelist," and anticipation was so great that President Obama secured an early copy while visiting a bookstore on Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts.

"I'm not a bit surprised (about Winfrey's choice)," said Lorin Stein, editor of The Paris Review and a former editor at Farrar, Straus & Giroux, which publishes Franzen. "Oprah has always shown great faith in the American reader. In that sense, I think she is a model to those of us in the literature business."

"I think anything that gets a wonderful literary book to millions of people would make anyone in my profession happy," said Deborah Treisman, fiction editor of The New Yorker, where early versions of two chapters from "Freedom" were serialized.

Farrar, Straus & Giroux did not immediately respond to requests for comment.



AP
In this book cover image released by Farrar, Straus and Giroux, "Freedom," by Jonathan Franzen is shown.

Angela DePaul, a spokeswoman for Winfrey's production company Harpo, would not confirm or deny the selection.

"Oprah announces her book club selections on her show and shares her reasons for choosing the books at that time," DePaul said.

"The Oprah Winfrey Show" just began its final season, but DePaul says it is "likely" Winfrey will make another book club pick after Friday. Since 2008, she has averaged just one or two selections a year.

Franzen, 51, is widely regarded as a leading fiction writer of his generation, but has been branded, with a scarlet "S," as in snob, for his comments in 2001 about Oprah's book club. He called some of her picks "schmaltzy" and worried about his place in the "high-end literary tradition."

But at the same time, he praised Winfrey for making some good choices and for "fighting the good fight." He apologized quickly and repeatedly, but Winfrey's mind was unchanged.

Now, with the selection of "Freedom," the "S" has apparently been removed and changed to an "O," the Oprah book club logo that will appear on new shipments of the novel. "Freedom" had already gone into a second printing, with 300,000 copies in print, and is virtually assured of selling hundreds of thousands of copies.

"It's not a vindication of anyone," Treisman said of Winfrey picking Franzen again, and presumably having him on her show. "Oprah is big enough not to hold any grudges and so is Jonathan."

"Freedom" is Winfrey's 64th pick and places Franzen in a special category: The rare author to have more than one book in her club; in 2001, Winfrey only revoked her invitation to have Franzen on her show, and not her recommendation of "The Corrections," a million-seller that remains listed on her Web site.

Winfrey's choices are usually made weeks in advance of their announcement, so it's possible Franzen already knew when, in mid-August, he told a reporter for the Star Tribune in Minneapolis that he would be happy if Winfrey picked "Freedom" and that he and the talk show host were not "very far apart" in their thinking. Franzen has often said he wants to write novels of substance and popular appeal.

At an appearance in Manhattan last week, the author was asked by an audience member if Oprah had been "in touch."

"Next question, please," Franzen responded.

Report: Affleck admits Joaquin Phoenix documentary a fake

NEW YORK (AP)—Casey Affleck is admitting to what many critics suspected all along: His documentary about Joaquin Phoenix was a fake.

The film, "I'm Still Here," followed Phoenix as he announced he was retiring from acting and launching a rap career.

The "Walk the Line" star grew doughy and disheveled, and he famously made an awkward appearance on David Letterman's show.

Affleck, who's Phoenix's brother-in-law and the film's director, now tells The New York Times that the whole thing was an act, calling it "the performance of his career." Affleck says he even faked home movies of Phoenix as a child.

But he insists he never meant to trick anyone, and rather was dabbling in "gonzo filmmaking."

Some critics called it a fascinating look at celebrity. Others assumed it was all staged.

In this Feb. 11, 2009 file photo, actor Joaquin Phoenix arrives for a taping of "The Late Show with David Letterman" in New York.

AP

'Always Sunny' back with baby daddy mystery on FX

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kaitlin Olson was glad when her real-life pregnancy became part of the story last season on "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" so she could stop hiding it. But she's keeping the secret of her character's baby daddy.

"I can't tell you. People are trying to get it out of me," Olson said.

Fans of the FX sitcom will have to wait to discover who got her character, Dee, pregnant as the sixth season starts Thursday at 10 p.m. EDT.

Off-screen, Olson is playing mom to Axel Lee McElhenney, born Sept. 1 to her and husband Rob McElhenney, who created and also stars on "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia."

The acidic comedy about four friends who run an Irish pub in Philadelphia also stars Charlie Day and Glenn Howerton, who are executive producers along with McElhenney, and Danny DeVito.

Axel is showing his comedy pedigree, Olson said: "He's hilarious already. He's making all kinds of jokes on the inside."

That doesn't mean he's ready for his close-up, according to his dad.

"Axel will make his debut in show business the day he graduates from college and he can make his own decisions," McElhenney told a teleconference. "Up to that, the boy will not be anywhere near, in front of or behind a camera. The only time he'll be behind a camera is when he's with me."

That said, the baby already can claim a credit of sorts.

"As soon as he's old enough, he can watch the season I was carrying him around," Olson said.

Comedy Central plans star-studded autism benefit

NEW YORK (AP)—Once again, Comedy Central has gone too far and lined up too many stars.

Stephen Colbert, Larry David, Tina Fey, Ricky Gervais and Sarah Silverman are just a few of the names expected for this year's "Night Of Too Many Stars: An Overbooked Concert For Autism Education," the network said Thursday.

The bicoastal benefit will consist of a comedy concert taped at New York's Beacon Theatre. Steve Carell, Jimmy Fallon, Tracy Morgan, Joel McHale, John Oliver, Chris Rock and Triumph The Insult Comic Dog are among those on the bill, with soul-funk ensemble Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings serving as the house band.

That event will be intercut with live appearances and a celebrity phone bank originating from Los Angeles. Rob Coddry, Bryan Cranston, Jimmy Kimmel, Jim Parsons, Sofia Vergara and Rainn Wilson will be some of the stars on hand taking calls from donors.

Jon Stewart will host the two-hour broadcast, which airs Oct. 21.

AP

In this Sept. 21, 2008 file photo, Stephen Colbert, left, and Jon Stewart make an award presentation at the 60th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles.

The biennial "Too Many Stars" special is aimed at raising money to help ease the shortage of schools and education programs for autistic children and adults. In past years, nearly $7 million was raised, Comedy Central said.

Jackson concert promoter discounts mother's suit

AP

In this June 14, 2010 photo, Michael Jackson's parents, Katherine Jackson and Joe Jackson leave a Los Angeles courthouse after a preliminary hearing setting and motions in the trial of Michael Jackson's personal doctor Conrad Murray.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A lawyer for the entertainment company sued by Michael Jackson's mother challenged the lawsuit Thursday and distanced AEG Live from the doctor charged in the singer's death.

"The lawsuit is inaccurate, unsubstantiated and meritless," attorney Marvin S. Putnam said in a statement released by AEG Live LLC.

Katherine Jackson sued AEG Live on Wednesday, claiming the promoter of her son's planned series of comeback concerts failed to provide key lifesaving equipment and adequately monitor the cardiologist hired to care for her son as he prepared for the shows.

She is seeking unspecified damages on behalf of herself and her son's three children.

Putnam's statement claimed the doctor, Conrad Murray, was acting as Jackson's personal physician and was not an AEG employee.

Fox: `American Idol' panel set for season 10

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Fox says the new "American Idol" panel of judges is set—but the network is keeping mum on who has been picked until next week.

The network said Thursday that the panel for season 10 has been confirmed and will be announced in Inglewood, Calif., next Wednesday. Steven Tyler and Jennifer Lopez are the front-runners.

The incoming judges will fill at least some of the seats vacated by Simon Cowell, Ellen DeGeneres and Kara DioGuardi and likely join original judge Randy Jackson.

Fox is making the announcement during the last of the national contestant auditions for next season, which starts in January. The tryouts are being held near Los Angeles at the Forum, former home to the L.A. Lakers.

Mom withdraws her approval after daughter elects to elope

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Kyle," and I decided to elope two weeks ago. His mother and mine had both said they'd be fine with an elopement. My sister and Kyle's brother were our witnesses—other than that it was just us.

When we told Kyle's family, they were elated and congratulated us on the spot. When I called my mother, she didn't say much. A couple of days later, I called to make plans to visit her, and she began telling me how many people I had "hurt" by eloping. Mom and I have always had problems communicating and she has a long history of holding me to a higher standard than my siblings. (My sister also eloped, and there were no hard feelings then.)

I am frustrated with Mom and the other members of my family who have chosen to be hurt rather than happy for us. I wouldn't have eloped if I hadn't received the green light from Mom earlier. I have sent out a letter of apology, but I am annoyed that it takes the place of a real wedding announcement. Please help.

BAFFLED ALBUQUERQUE BRIDE

DEAR BAFFLED BRIDE: I'm sorry you sent a letter of apology instead of a wedding announcement. You did not have to. If questioned about your elopement, all you had to say was you had the blessing of both your mothers before you did it.

Your mom may be upset that she was not among the "chosen few" to be present when you said "I do" -- and her criticism now may be a reflection of it. You have a husband who loves you and at least one sibling with whom you are close. Treasure that and stop depending on your mother's approval, and you will be better off emotionally than you are right now.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating "Dwight" for a while now, and things are becoming more serious. Dwight has expressed a desire to make a trip several states away so I can meet his parents. We have even gone so far as discussing how we would handle religion if we have children. I have mixed feelings about the trip. I am both elated and terrified.

Dwight's father is a minister in a small town. My parents were not religious at all and neither am I. Dwight understands that, and he is fine with it.

When I meet his parents, I'm sure they will inevitably ask why I don't share their beliefs. How do I answer them honestly without offending them?

NON-BELIEVER IN TENNESSEE

DEAR NON-BELIEVER: I see nothing offensive about explaining to them—as you did to me—that your parents were not religious and they didn't raise you to be.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My best friend, "Keira," has been dating someone I dated for a short time. Although I was the one who ended the relationship, I still feel uncomfortable with her dating him. The guy means nothing to me and I have moved on to someone else, but it still bothers me.

I told Keira how I feel. She told me I need to be happy for her. It has been three weeks since we last spoke, and I just don't know what else to say. Should I end our friendship since she obviously doesn't care about my feelings?

DISCONNECTED FRIEND IN OHIO

DEAR DISCONNECTED: You say Keira is your "best" friend. What about HER feelings? You rejected the guy, which means (to me) that in some way he didn't measure up to your standards. Why begrudge Keira her happiness? Answer that question and you'll know whether this is really worth ending the friendship over.

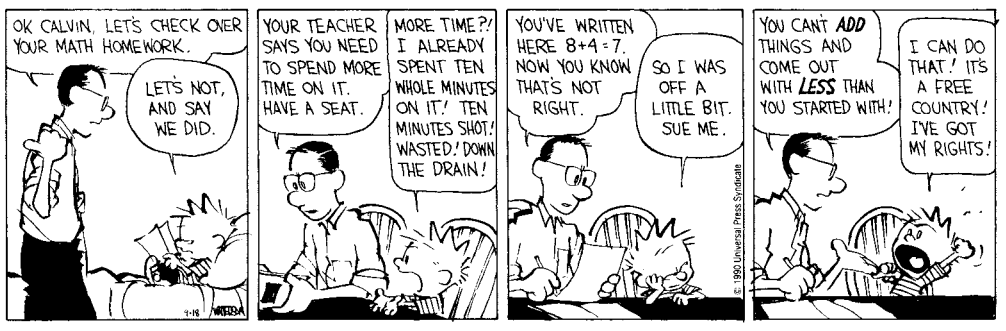
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby – Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OK CALVIN, LET'S CHECK OVER YOUR MATH HOMEWORK.
LET'S NOT, AND SAY WE DID.
YOUR TEACHER SAYS YOU NEED TO SPEND MORE TIME ON IT. HAVE A SEAT.
MORE TIME?! I ALREADY SPENT TEN WHOLE MINUTES ON IT! TEN MINUTES SHOT! WASTED! DOWN THE DRAIN!
YOU'VE WRITTEN HERE 8+4=7. NOW YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT RIGHT.
SO I WAS OFF A LITTLE BIT. SUE ME.
YOU CAN'T ADD THINGS AND COME OUT WITH LESS THAN YOU STARTED WITH!
I CAN DO THAT! IT'S A FREE COUNTRY! I'VE GOT MY RIGHTS!
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

HELLO, LIZ?
WHATCHA DOIN'?
I MEAN OTHER THAN ANSWERING MY NINETEENTH CALL ASKING YOU WHAT YOU'RE DOING
GET CALLER I.D., GIRL
JIM DAVIS 9-18
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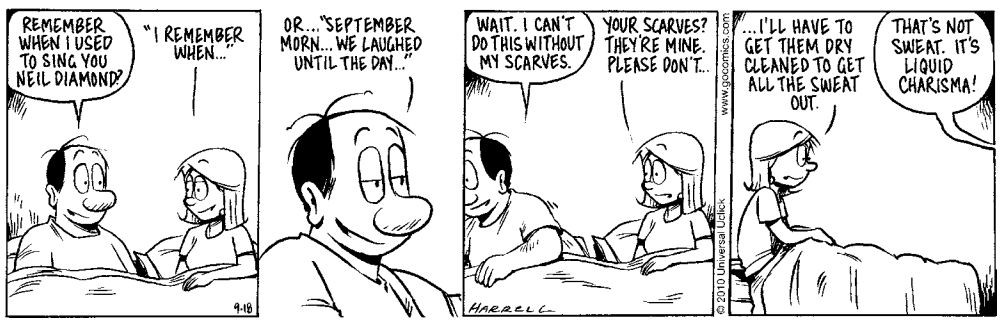
www.garfield.com
Distributed by Universal Uclick

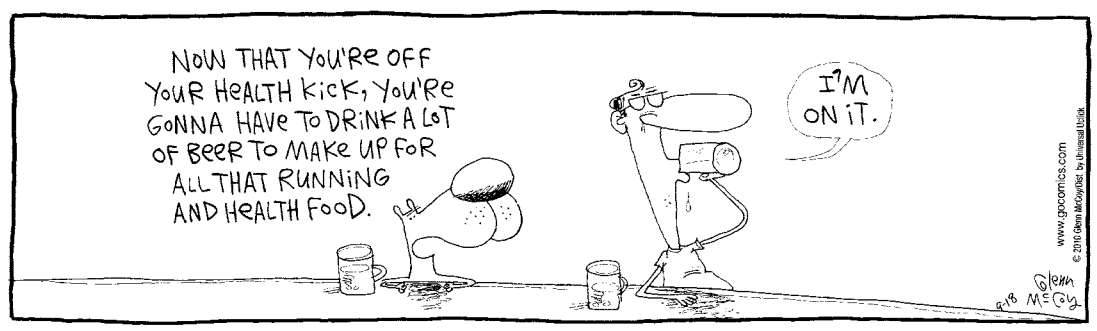
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


REMEMBER WHEN I USED TO SING YOU NEIL DIAMOND?
"I REMEMBER WHEN..."
OR..."SEPTEMBER MORN... WE LAUGHED UNTIL THE DAY..."
WAIT. I CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT MY SCARVES.
YOUR SCARVES? THEY'RE MINE. PLEASE DON'T..
...I'LL HAVE TO GET THEM DRY CLEANED TO GET ALL THE SWEAT OUT.
THAT'S NOT SWEAT. IT'S LIQUID CHARISMA!
HARRELL
© 2010 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


NOW THAT YOU'RE OFF YOUR HEALTH KICK, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO DRINK A LOT OF BEER TO MAKE UP FOR ALL THAT RUNNING AND HEALTH FOOD.
I'M ON IT.
www.gocomics.com
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Lavished love (on)
6 Signs of an electric problem
12 Last car?
13 East
14 This way
15 Comic Dangerfield
16 Largest amount
17 All hands on deck
19 Ram's mate
20 Tortoise's rival
22 Trail the pack
24 Sentence parts (Abbr.)
27 Isinglass
29 Hourglass filler
32 Annual greeting
35 Shrek is one
36 Duel tool
37 CBS logo
38 Tattooist's supply
40 Sicilian spouter
42 Suitable
44 Hurry
46 Capri, e.g.
50 Doohickeys
52 Heavy overcoat
54 Vast expanses
55 Greet a superior
56 Veep under FDR
57 Congregational shouts

DOWN
1 Erte's style
2 Regatta props
3 Fidelity
4 Curvaceous character
5 Use adjectives, perhaps
6 Miffed
7 Roam predatorily
8 Help
9 Deserter
10 Recognized
11 Ophthalmologist's case
12 Scenery chewer
18 Entries for entrees?
21 Rocker Winehouse
23 Blond shade
24 Personal question?
25 Mr. Hammarskjöld
26 White wine drink
28 Wood nymph
30 Aye canceler
31 Prepare Easter eggs
33 Corral
34 X rating?
39 Danish money
41 Supermarket section
42 Enthusiastic
43 Elite alternative
45 Cold War faction (Abbr.)
47 Phaser setting
48 Reply to "Shall we?"
49 Before
51 Chap
53 Felon's flight

Solution time: 27 mins.

T	O	M	■	S	L	A	W	■	X	R	A	Y
A	R	I	■	H	E	I	R	■	Y	O	R	E
P	A	N	A	T	E	L	A	■	L	E	E	S
E	L	I	X	I	R	■	P	O	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	I	C	Y	■	P	A	M	E	L	A
S	N	E	A	K	■	D	E	F	■	M	I	D
P	O	L	L	■	S	I	R	■	T	I	M	E
A	G	E	■	A	T	M	■	B	O	R	O	N
N	O	V	E	L	A	■	R	E	P	■	■	■
■	■	■	T	A	R	■	A	M	A	Z	O	N
D	I	S	H	■	V	U	V	U	Z	E	L	A
A	L	O	E	■	E	K	E	S	■	A	I	R
B	L	U	R	■	D	E	L	E	■	L	O	Y

Yesterday's answer 9-18

■	1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	10	11
12						■	13					
14						■	15					
16				■	17	18			■	19		
■	■	■	20	21			■	22	23		■	■
24	25	26	■	27			28	■	29		30	31
32			33					34				
35				■	36				■	37		
■	■	38		39	■	40			41	■	■	■
42	43		■	44	45			■	46	47	48	49
50			51			■	52	53				
54						■	55					
56						■	57					■

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: James Marsden, 37; Jada Pinkett Smith, 39; Aisha Tyler, 40; James Gandolfini, 49

Happy Birthday: Now is not the time to revert to a lifestyle or world you left behind. Let the past go. It's forward-thinking that will get you in sync with future trends and advancement. Positive changes will be required but discipline and hard work will pay off. Your numbers are 2, 7, 12, 18, 25, 39, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Get serious about what you want to accomplish. You will get help if you ask for it. Start by asking people you have done things for in the past to make suggestions or give guidance as to how to go about reaching your goals. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Your emotions are likely to stand in the way of an opportunity if you choose to make a fuss over nothing. This is an excellent day for travel, shopping or picking up information. Adaptability will lead to your success but stubbornness will lead to loss. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take care of personal matters before your options are limited. A relationship with someone you work with will cause emotional duress. Rethink your strategy before getting involved with someone who is off-limits. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Make constructive changes at home that will make your surroundings comfortable and user-friendly. Love and romance are in the stars and a night spent with someone special will lead to a better relationship and the opportunity to make plans for the future. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't count on getting away with anything, especially when it has to do with love, family or your domestic situation. Follow through on the promises you've made to help an older friend or relative going through tough times. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Discipline and hard work will pay off. Health, fitness and nutrition can all be adjusted to fit your needs. Getting into shape or correcting a bad habit you've fallen into will be satisfying and will enable you to make improvements that were formerly impossible. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Help family and friends and you will bypass someone capable of being pushy and critical. A private relationship you have with someone can be enhanced late in the day if you make special plans for two. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make sure you run your ideas or plans by someone who may be offended if you don't. It's important to have the approval of others before you indulge in something that may affect the people around you. Be practical in order to avoid disappointment. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Remember what you used to do and enjoy. It's the past that will help you find the right direction now. Upset at home or with friends or relatives can be expected. Try to maintain balance. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You may feel like being playful or even foolish, especially when it comes to affairs of the heart, but don't let it cost you financially. Taking a risk for the sake of love can be tempting but the end result will be disappointment. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Stick to your plans. A practical approach to what you do and the information you gather will help you make the right decision and choices. Emotional problems will arise if you get involved in a group or an organization that tampers with your beliefs. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You can expect to get only half the information you require to make a decision. A hard-nosed attitude will enable you to finalize any unfinished business that is holding you back. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are innovative and interested in everything. You have willpower and a relentless and courageous way of handling whatever you face.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		3	7		1	9		
				8				
		2				8		
1			3		6			9
	4			7			2	
6			2		4			5
		7				6		
				4				
		6	9		8	5		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	5	6	3	4	8	1	2	7
4	2	8	1	6	7	5	9	3
7	1	3	5	9	2	6	4	8
3	7	2	8	1	9	4	6	5
5	4	1	2	3	6	8	7	9
6	8	9	4	7	5	2	3	1
2	3	5	7	8	4	9	1	6
1	6	4	9	5	3	7	8	2
8	9	7	6	2	1	3	5	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/17

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GEORGE STEINBRENNER (1930-2010) **Solution: 7 letters**

R	N	H	R	U	E	N	E	R	P	E	R	T	N	E
O	E	H	O	N	O	R	S	H	Y	H	W	B	S	E
J	W	N	O	S	O	E	C	A	R	I	A	R	V	S
A	Y	Y	W	C	T	T	J	(B)	N	S	O	I	A	R
M	O	N	K	O	A	E	(U)	S	E	H	T	T	R	E
A	R	Y	H	P	N	(L)	D	B	H	U	M	A	C	P
N	K	I	E	N	(C)	J	A	H	C	I	N	O	T	I
A	O	N	I	L	E	L	T	E	L	A	L	U	A	P
G	P	F	A	S	L	E	X	I	M	U	O	S	L	L
E	E	M	S	H	B	E	T	S	M	G	K	O	E	A
R	Y	I	A	A	U	A	N	B	U	A	E	N	A	Y
G	C	L	Z	T	R	I	U	D	E	F	R	S	H	E
A	E	I	L	Y	K	S	K	U	O	H	A	T	C	R
Y	L	N	F	I	E	L	D	F	A	N	S	R	I	S
E	M	A	E	T	B	R	O	A	D	W	A	Y	M	N

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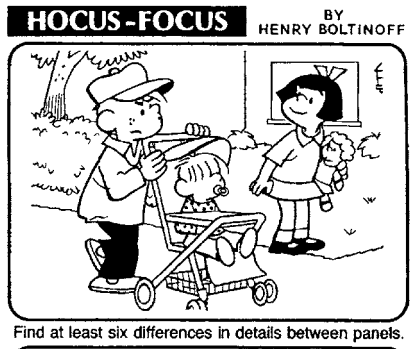
Baseball, Billy, Broadway, Burke, Club, Columbus, Dugout, Elizabeth, Entrepreneur, Executive, Fans, Farm, Field, Gene, Hair, Haley, Hank, Henry, Honors, Horse, Hosted, Houk, Jennifer, Jessica, Kinsman, Major, Manager, Martin, Michael, Military, New York, Ocala, Ohio, Owner, Patch, Paul, Pipers, Player, Race, Rita, Rocky, Sons, Tampa, Team, Wins, Yell

Yesterday's Answer: Telephone

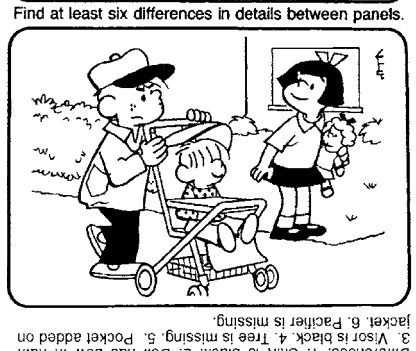
The **NEW Treasury 9** can be ordered by sending check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com. (contains 130 puzzles, 33 of which are the larger 20 x 20 size)

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Skirt is black. 2. Doll has bow in hair. 3. Visor is black. 4. Tree is missing. 5. Pocket added on jacket. 6. Pacifier is missing.

Wishing Well®

4	6	4	5	8	2	5	8	6	2	4	5	8
N	T	O	L	C	L	E	O	H	E	T	A	N
6	5	6	3	5	4	6	2	5	7	5	7	6
I	D	N	U	T	H	K	T	H	L	E	O	B
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V	U	E	E	C	E	Y	E	T	G	E	N	B
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2	8	7	8	4	6	3	2	3	6	8	4	2
R	S	R	T	Y	A	D	R	F	C	M	O	I
3	4	7	6	3	8	2	7	3	8	2	8	2
A	U	E	T	M	A	V	S	E	D	E	E	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword

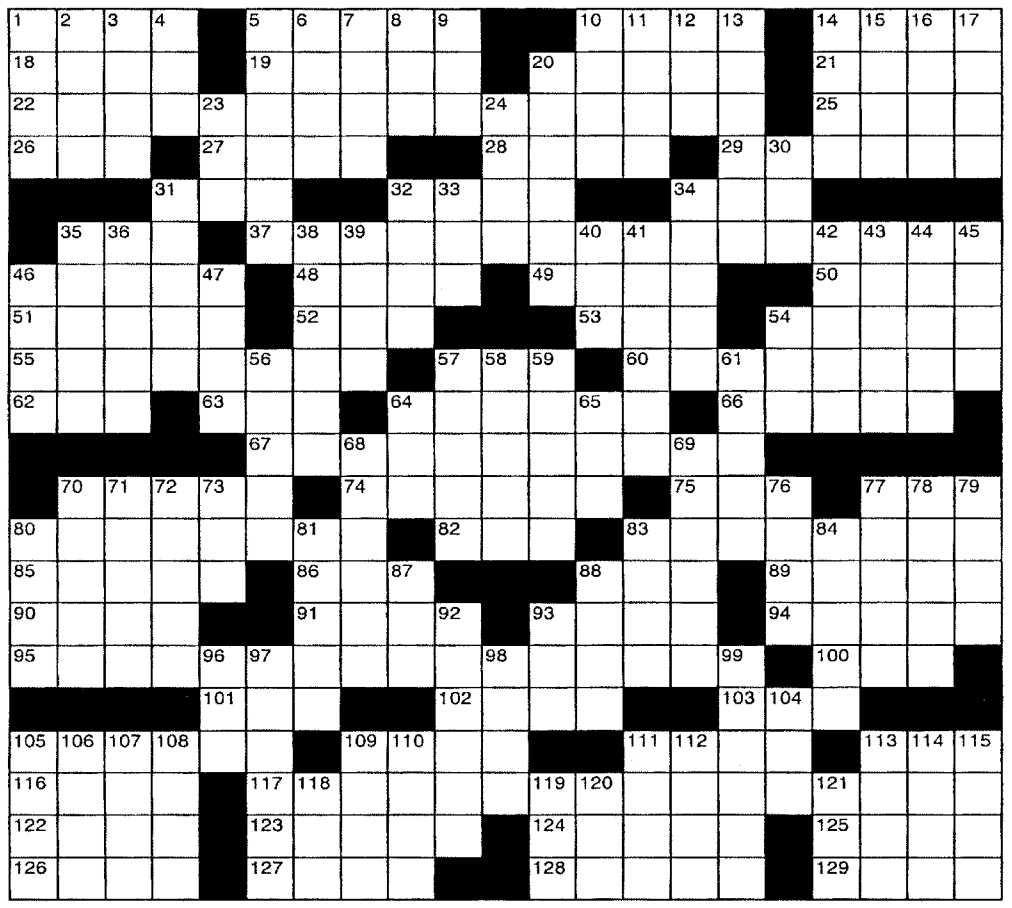
DON'T BE ALARMED

ACROSS

1 Writer Roald
5 Taxing time?
10 Thousand —, CA
14 — vu
18 Soap additive
19 Range rope
20 Tall story?
21 25 Across maneuver
22 Start of a remark by Henny Youngman
25 Skater Lipinski
26 Settled on the sofa
27 Pump part
28 Pressing need
29 Runnymede's river
31 Morning moisture
32 Baltic city
34 Sault — Marie, MI
35 Chop
37 Part 2 of remark
46 Silly Soupy
48 Designer Ricci
49 Mrs. Nick Charles
50 Parent
51 Folklore figure
52 AAA offering
53 "— the Dog" ('97 film)
54 Ballroom dance
55 Fabric ornament
57 Mil. honor
60 Casanova, for one
62 Caviar
63 Wagner's "— Rheingold"
64 Vaudeville's Tucker
66 Islamic title
67 Part 3 of remark
70 Frank or Dweezil
74 Greet the general
75 Peculiar
77 "A mouse!"
80 Biblical city
82 Nice season
83 German shepherd
85 Cropped up
86 Goal
88 Pub order
89 Elbow
90 Quindlen's "One — Thing"
91 Paper quantity
93 Trauma aftermath
94 "Die Fledermaus" maid
95 Part 4 of remark
100 Prospector's prize
101 Time to evolve?
102 Travel with Tonto
103 "Tell — About It" ('83 hit)
105 Mideastern mall?
109 Singer Lesley
111 Iowa city
113 Task
116 Prayer finale
117 End of remark
122 Tilt
123 Hood's handle
124 "Wait — Dark" ('67 film)
125 Similar
126 Punta del —
127 Neighbor of Ark.
128 Mars has two
129 Gnat or brat

DOWN

1 Place to pontificate
2 — Romeo
3 Songwriter Axton
4 Singer Sayer
5 They're kept in a quiver
6 Rind
7 Fury
8 Robert of "Quincy, M.E."
9 Chou En-—
10 "Beetle Bailey" dog
11 Like — of bricks
12 Rib
13 Diva Renata
14 Base stuff?
15 Final
16 Actor Burns
17 "Oh, woe!"
20 With — of salt
23 Employ
24 Imminent
30 Female fowl
31 Reside
32 Artist Magritte
33 Call — day
34 Play ground?
35 Silent star?
36 Wed in haste
38 Torrent
39 Speck
40 Right away
41 Concrete component
42 Fuming
43 Bottled spirit?
44 Cartoon Viking
45 '82 Jeff Bridges film
46 TV's "— Search"
47 Coasted
54 Pro — (for now)
56 Doha's country
57 Holmes' creator
58 Teapot part
59 Coal conveyance
61 Must-haves
64 Police hdqrs.
65 — de France
68 More pallid
69 Jacket type
70 Bernardo's boss
71 Romance
72 Puzzling problem
73 Affix meaning "before"
76 Delany or Wynter
77 Duck down
78 Bald bird
79 Patella's place
80 Gangsters' guns
81 Composer Copland
83 Fruit-tree spray
84 English dynasty
87 Welcome item?
88 Lot size
92 Udall or West
93 Lay down the lawn
96 Nay opponent
97 Setup
98 Appearance
99 Automobile, informally
104 Kreskin's letters
105 Bound bundle
106 Author Kingsley
107 Gusto
108 Relative of 73 Down
109 Prepare to bear it
110 — even keel
111 Choir member
112 Chow —
113 Boxer LaMotta
114 Model Carre
115 Crooked
118 Seville shout
119 Chew it!
120 — -Cat
121 Peke's perch



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POPEYE
HY EISMAN
SO YA FINALLY PERPOSED TA TH' WIDDER QUINN!
I DID INDEED, MY FRIEND!
I SAID.."MAGGIE, MARRY ME AND MAKE ME THE HAPPIEST MAN ON EARTH!"
THEN I SAID... "I LOVE YOU MORE THAN WORDS CAN EXPRESS!"
WOT DID SHE SAY TA THAT?
"SHE SAID.."
LOVE DOESN'T CONQUER ALL, WIMPY!
I KNOW
"THEN SHE SAID.."
THERE'S A NEED FOR FOOD, CLOTHING AND SHELTER...
...AND ONLY FULL EMPLOYMENT COVERS THOSE NEEDS!
WHEN DID SHE TURN VI'LENT?
WHEN I ASKED WHAT KIND OF WORK SHE WAS QUALIFIED FOR!
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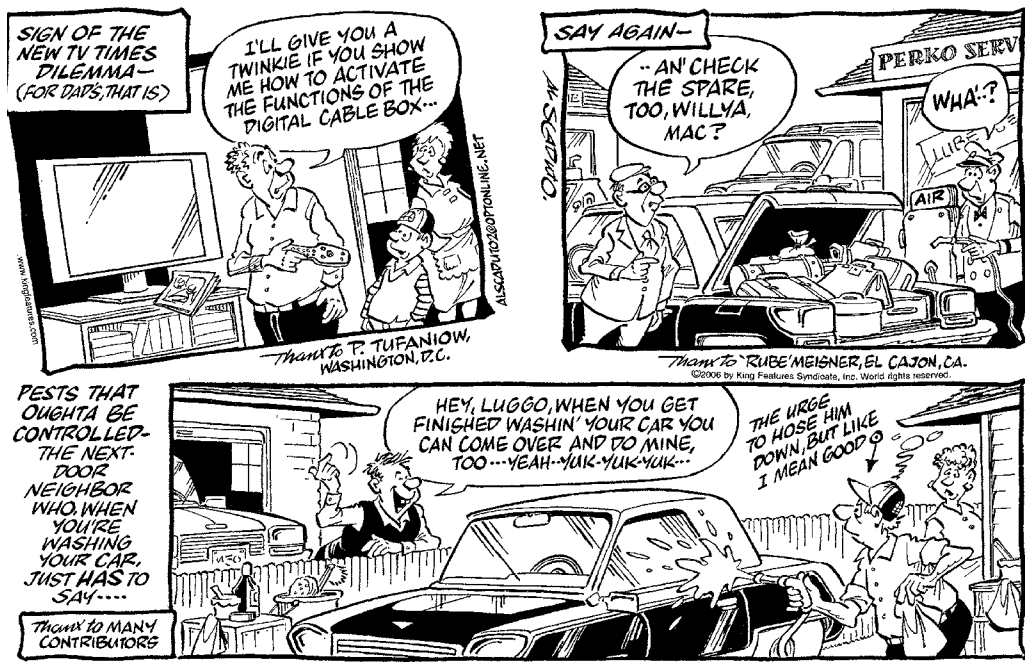
They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto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Thanx to P. TUFANIOW, WASHINGTON, D.C.
SAY AGAIN—
..AN' CHECK THE SPARE, TOO, WILLYA, MAC?
PERKO SERV
WHA'..?
AIR
Thanx to RUBE MEISNER, EL CAJON, CA.
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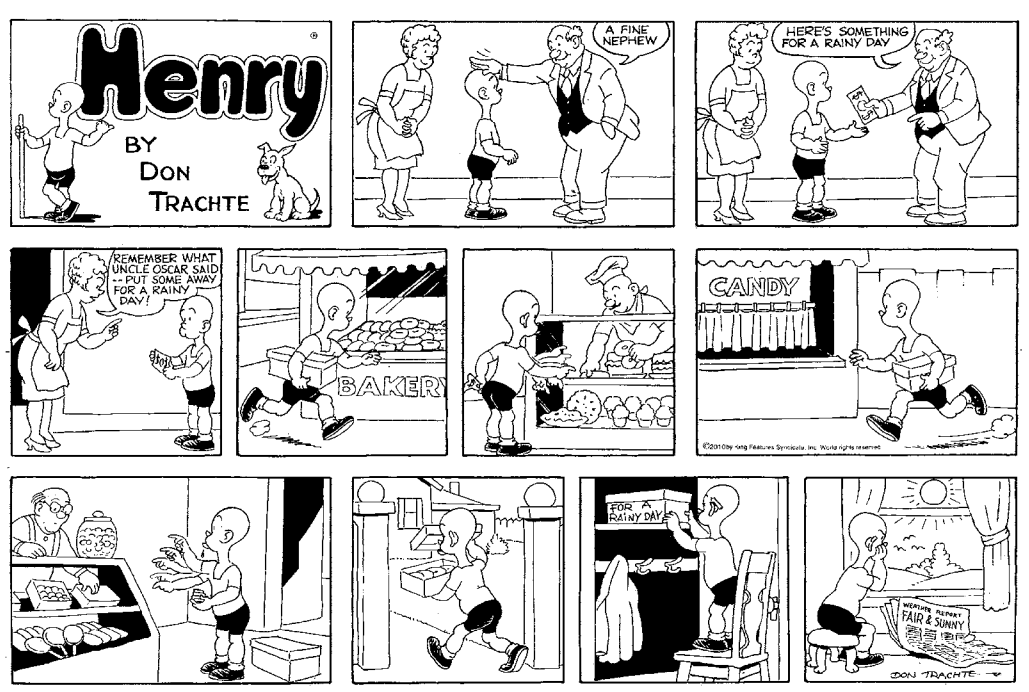
PESTS THAT OUGHTA BE CONTROLLED- THE NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR WHO, WHEN YOU'RE WASHING YOUR CAR, JUST HAS TO SAY....
HEY, LUGGO, WHEN YOU GET FINISHED WASHIN' YOUR CAR YOU CAN COME OVER AND DO MINE, TOO...YEAH..YUK-YUK-YUK...
THE URGE TO HOSE HIM DOWN, BUT LIKE I MEAN GOOD?
Thanx TO MANY CONTRIBUTORS



Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. LANGUAGE: What is the meaning of the Latin phrase "amor vincit omnia"?
2. ANATOMY: What is the smallest bone in the human body?
3. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Love in the Time of Cholera"?
4. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How long does it take a cheetah to achieve its top speed of 70 mph?
5. SCIENCE: What is the chemical symbol for potassium?
6. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Who once said, "A girl must marry for love, and keep on marrying until she finds it"?
7. HISTORY: What was the only part of the British Commonwealth occupied by Germany during World War II?
8. MYTHOLOGY: What was the Greek goddess Chloris' sphere of influence?
9. GEOGRAPHY: What is the largest reservoir in the U.S.?
10. MATH: Of the numbers 1-10, which is the only one spelled with the same number of letters as the number itself?

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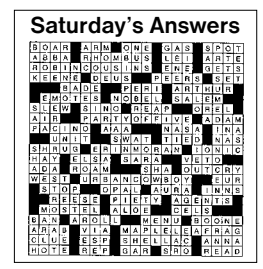
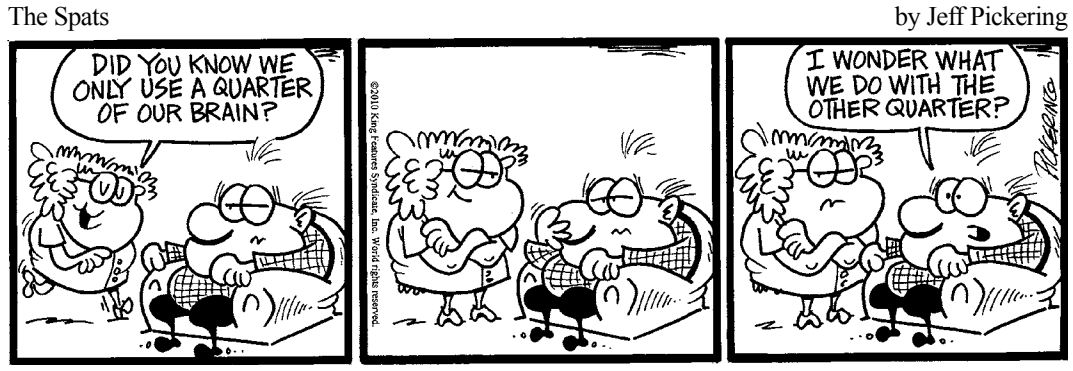
Answers

1. Love conquers all
2. The stirrup bone (stapes) in the ear (about one-tenth of an inch)
3. Gabriel García Márquez
4. Three seconds from a standstill
5. K (kalium)
6. Zsa Zsa Gabor
7. The Channel Islands (Jersey)
8. Goddess of flowers
9. Lake Mead, created by Hoover Dam
10. Four

Saturday's Answers



The Spats — by Jeff Pickering


DID YOU KNOW WE ONLY USE A QUARTER OF OUR BRAIN?
I WONDER WHAT WE DO WITH THE OTHER QUARTER?
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• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For:	))))	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0437 **NOTICE OF HEARING**
D.T.T. & D.T.N. Minor Children	))	
By: Tanya Ann Sanchez and Anarita Sanchez Joseph Petitioners	))))	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on October 04, 2010, at 1:30pm in Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 17th day of August, 2010.

Bernadita Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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Find today's solution in this section

Storm hold off Dream 87-84 to win 2nd WNBA title

Popovich: Duncan back 'even slimmer' than before

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Tim Duncan is no longer getting better with age, but he's apparently getting slimmer and fitter.

San Antonio Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said Thursday that Duncan returned this summer for his 14th season perhaps in even better shape than a year ago, when the perennial All-Star reported to training camp 15 pounds lighter.

"He's trim and slim. I think he's even slimmer than he was last year," Popovich said. "He's really serious about this. He knows his responsibilities. He wants to win again."

Popovich met with reporters in San Antonio for the first time since Phoenix swept the Spurs from the Western Conference semifinals in May. He'll open training camp Sept. 27 with Duncan, who turns 35 this season, leading what is a mostly unchanged Spurs roster.

San Antonio is still built to go only as far as Duncan can take them. But he'll get some long-overdue frontcourt help with the addition of 7-footer Tiago Splitter, the marquee signing for the Spurs in an otherwise quiet offseason.

Originally drafted by the Spurs in 2007, Splitter is a former MVP and championship winner in the Spanish League. He joins the Spurs amid high expectations—Popovich compared Splitter's NBA-readiness to Manu Ginobili's arrival in 2002.

That doesn't mean Splitter will be a go-to scorer. Popovich said the Brazilian's biggest impact will instead be rebounding and defense, but those contributions should be immediate.

"He'll come in running, so to speak, and not have a problem," Popovich said.

Popovich didn't say how much lighter Duncan might have come back. But like last summer, Duncan pushed back and toned down his old preseason regiments in hopes of keeping his body fresher come spring.

Duncan got off to a roaring start in the playoffs last year against Dallas though still finished the season averaging 17.9 points and 10.1 rebounds, both career lows. He has two years left on his contract.

Ginobili, 33, is starting a new three-year extension while Tony Parker isn't signed past this season.

"Fantastic means have an opportunity to win a championship, and that's what we're always looking for here," Popovich said. "There's no reason why this group can't do it, but there are also probably 10 teams in the league that feel they have that opportunity."

ATLANTA (AP)—The Seattle Storm are champions again.

Seattle completed its undefeated march through the postseason, beating the Atlanta Dream 87-84 on Thursday night for a three-game sweep in the WNBA finals.

The Storm won each of its seven postseason games for its second WNBA title. The Storm also won the 2004 championship.

Swin Cash scored 18 points to lead a balanced offense as Seattle overcame 35 points by Atlanta's Angel McCoughtry. Lauren Jackson, who had 26 points in each of the Storm's first two wins in the series, had 15 points and nine rebounds and was selected MVP of the finals.

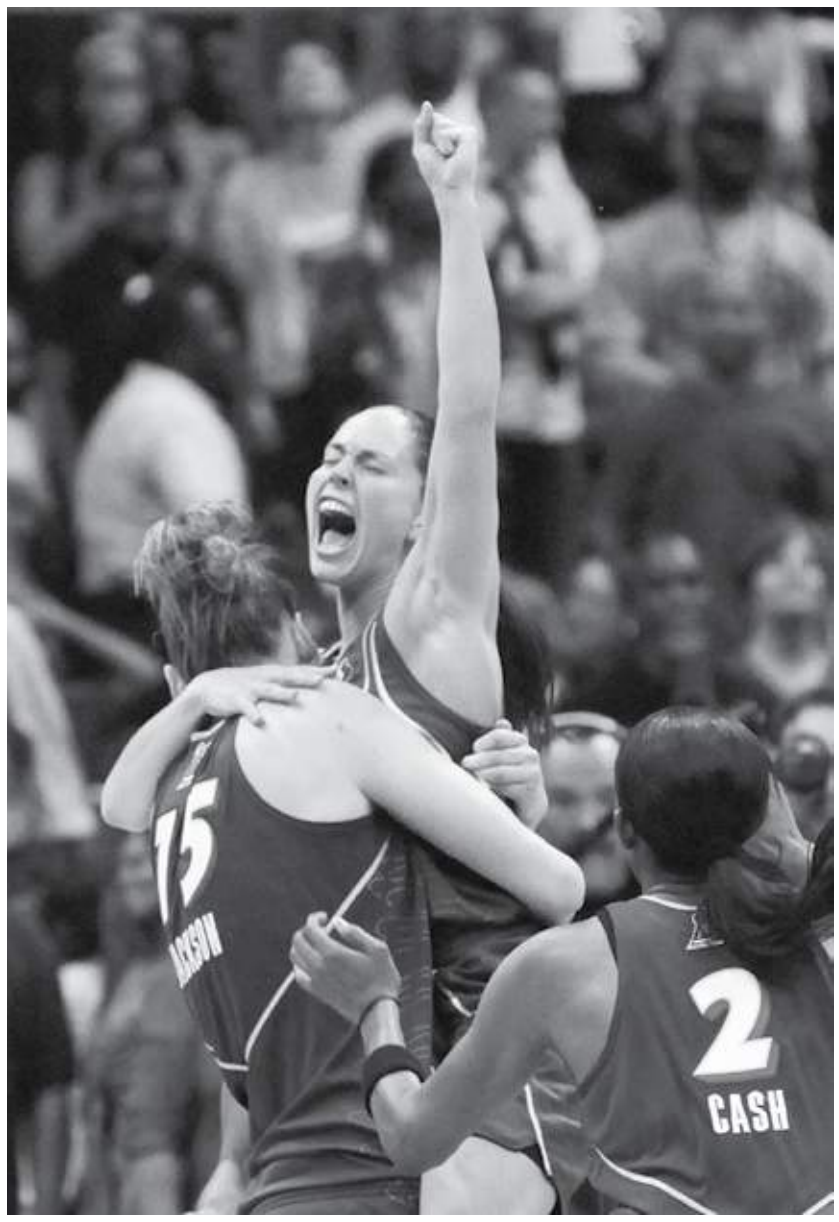
McCoughtry, who set a WNBA playoff record with 42 points in the Dream's Eastern Conference finals clinching win over the New York Liberty, tried to rally Atlanta with nine points in the final 2:30. But McCoughtry and Coco Miller missed 3-pointers in the final 6 seconds, setting off a celebration by Seattle's players.

McCoughtry's three-point play with 46 seconds remaining cut Seattle's lead to 85-80. Seattle's Tanisha Wright missed two free throws and McCoughtry was fouled by Cash while missing a 3.

McCoughtry made two of three free throws to cut the lead to three points with 31 seconds remaining.

Seattle's Sue Bird dribbled away the shot clock before missing a shot to set up a basket by Atlanta's Iziane Castro Marques with 6.9 seconds left. McCoughtry immediately fouled Camille Little, who made two free throws to give Seattle an 87-84 lead.

McCoughtry missed a 3-pointer but the rebound went to Atlanta before Coco Miller also missed a last-second 3.



AP

Seattle Storm guard Sue Bird, right, celebrates with Lauren Jackson, of Australia, after the Storm defeated the Atlanta Dream 87-84 in Game 3 of the WNBA basketball finals Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010, in Atlanta, sweeping the series.

Each of Seattle's starters scored in double figures.

Bird, who along with Jackson are the only players remaining from the Storm's 2004 title team, had 14 points and seven assists. Little had 15 and Wright had 13.

The Storm became the first team to win the championship without a postseason loss since the Los Angeles Sparks went 6-0 in 2002, when the finals were a best-of-three series.

The sweep wasn't easy. The Storm won the first two games in Seattle by a combined margin of five points and struggled at times against Atlanta's relentless defense in the decisive Game 3.

The Dream led 59-53 late in the third quarter before Seattle took control with a 16-1 run, including the first basket of the fourth.

Castro Marques scored 21 points for Atlanta, Coco Miller had 12 and Erika de Souza added 10 points and 14 rebounds.

A fastbreak basket by McCoughtry gave the Dream the six-point lead before the Storm scored 14 of the last 15 points of the third quarter.

Wright's 3-pointer sparked Seattle's 10-0 run to open the game. The Storm kept the lead until Kelly Miller's 3-pointer with 2:02 remaining in the first half gave Atlanta a 41-39 lead.

The Dream made 6 of 9 3-pointers in the half, including a long jumper by McCoughtry that gave the Dream a 44-43 halftime lead.

Assistant coach Carol Ross and McCoughtry drew technical fouls for separate incidents in the first period.

The finals attracted attention from Atlanta's other professional team.

The NBA Atlanta Hawks had a large turnout for the game, including Joe Johnson, Al Horford, Marvin Williams, Jeff Teague and Jordan Crawford. Also attending the game were John Abraham of the Atlanta Falcons and former Falcons coach Dan Reeves.

Jim Brown: More needs to be done by NFL

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Jim Brown isn't surprised by the rise in diagnosed concussions among NFL players and says the league and the union need to do more to protect those players.

Speaking at the Santa Clara Sports Law Symposium on Thursday, the 74-year-old Hall of Famer bemoaned what he says has been the NFL's historical denial of injuries at the cost of winning.

Brown, who will join NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell this weekend at a meeting with the Congressional Black Caucus in Washington, also said players have to be better educated about their own health so that they don't attempt to hide the injuries.

Four players suffered concussions this past Sunday during the NFL's opening weekend: Philadelphia quarterback Kevin Kolb and linebacker Stewart Bradley, Carolina quarterback Matt Moore and New York Giants tight end Kevin Boss.

Dr. Hunt Batjer, co-chairman for the NFL's Brain, Head and Neck Medical Committee, said earlier this week he didn't see the concussions suffered by the four players as part of a trend, adding that the league and its medical staff will closely monitor the situation through the season.

Brown, a longtime activist and proponent for change in the health care of current and former NFL players, thinks the concussions are symptoms of a larger issue

"Concussion have brought the consciousness to the problem but I think the problem is football-related injuries period and the lack of support from the league of those players who have suffered those injuries," Brown said. "The denial factor has been unbelievable. I'm here because I'm a fighter to try to bring attention to this fact."

The symposium covered a variety of topics, from performance enhancing drugs to the licensing and use of players' images. Nearly 150 people attended the event at the cost of $125 per person.

Brown wasn't the keynote speaker but he was easily the most popular and recognizable person at the front table. His message was clear: Professional sports leagues must improve their care and education of the athletes.

Specifically, Brown blasted the NFL for often turning a blind eye to head injuries suffered by players. The league, he says, promotes hard hits but doesn't do enough to deal with the ramifications.

"It doesn't take science to know that when you have head-to-head collisions, there's going to be some effect," Brown said. "Boxing is a great example of it but in football sometimes you're taking greater hits than boxers. When you have one man going full speed against another man and those heads are colliding, it's just the fact of science you're going to have results.

"All the denial that's taken place over the years to keep the league from having to pay money or the players association taking advantage of their players and not representing them properly, all those things have gone on. Only now years later here we are saying concussions. People have been getting knocked out for years and going back in the game unsupervised."

Brown lauded the NHL for its efforts in diagnosing and treating head injuries and said the NFL needs to follow suit.

"People want football and they want hard-hitting football, so to me it's not the thing of hard-hitting football," Brown said. "It's at least taking care of your wounded. I don't want football to not be played but I would like the sophistication brought forth to take care of those who need to be taken care of and to take the precaution, at the sacrifice of winning, to take care of people."

This past June, Brown was presented with the Blanton Collier Award by the Kentucky chapter of the NFLPLA to acknowledge his humanitarian work. Brown's Amer-I-Can organization helps gang members from inner cities move toward a more productive life and he is also involved with numerous other charities.

His current passion, however, is forcing change in the NFL on numerous levels. Brown talked about the need to revamp the league's pension plan and health care system, as well as a rookie salary cap.

Historically, Brown says, the NFL has looked the other way when players suffer concussions in order to keep the player on the field despite the increased risk of injury.

Bradley hit his head against a teammate's leg and struggled to get up before falling helmet-first onto the ground in the Eagles' 27-20 loss to the Green Bay Packers on Sunday. He returned for a handful of plays before being pulled for the remainder of the game.

Kolb was hurt shortly after Bradley was, though the Eagles originally reported it as a jaw injury. Like Bradley, Kolb came back in the game briefly before heading to the sidelines.

Part of the problem, Brown says, is the lack of education among athletes.

"Players have to recognize when something is wrong and stand up," Brown said. "That's something that's going to be difficult because players are ostracized when they do that ... so there's a tremendous sacrifice that goes inherently with the game. That's not anybody's fault but the players themselves because we should be able to say, 'Hey, I don't feel good. I can't play.'"

San Francisco Giants managing partner Bill Neukom, Dr. Michael Dillingham, former orthopedic surgeon for the San Francisco 49ers, ex-NFL player Ben Lynch and sociologist Harry Edwards were also among those speaking at the event.

Yankee sleight of hand: Derek deke? Jeter cheater?

NEW YORK (AP)—Derek Jeter has a bit part in a box-office hit, and he's putting those acting skills to good use.

The New York Yankees captain, with a cameo in the Will Ferrell comedy "The Other Guys," gave an Oscar-worthy performance by pretending to get hit by a pitch in a pennant race game Wednesday night.

Howling, hopping and hurting—seemingly, anyway—Jeter even got the team trainer to examine his left arm. And then the All-Star often hailed as a model of good sportsmanship took his base.

More like stole it, fans in Tampa Bay hollered.

"Jeter cheater!" they chanted.

Replays clearly showed what really happened: Chad Qualls' fastball squarely struck the knob of Jeter's bat, not him. But Major League Baseball doesn't use instant replay in these situations.

For more than a century, ballplayers have tried to bend the rules. Pitchers throw spitballs, outfielders fake catches on balls that bounce, shortstops make phantom tags. This isn't golf, where players are expected to call penalties on themselves.

Coming off the Steroids Era, where cheating often meant illegal performance-enhancing drugs, some actually found a charm in Jeter's old-fashioned chicanery.

Yet seeing the squeaky-clean Jeter involved in Yankee hanky-panky was startling. So was his response. Asked where the ball hit, he readily admitted his sleight of hand.

"The bat," he said, without apology. "It's part of the game."

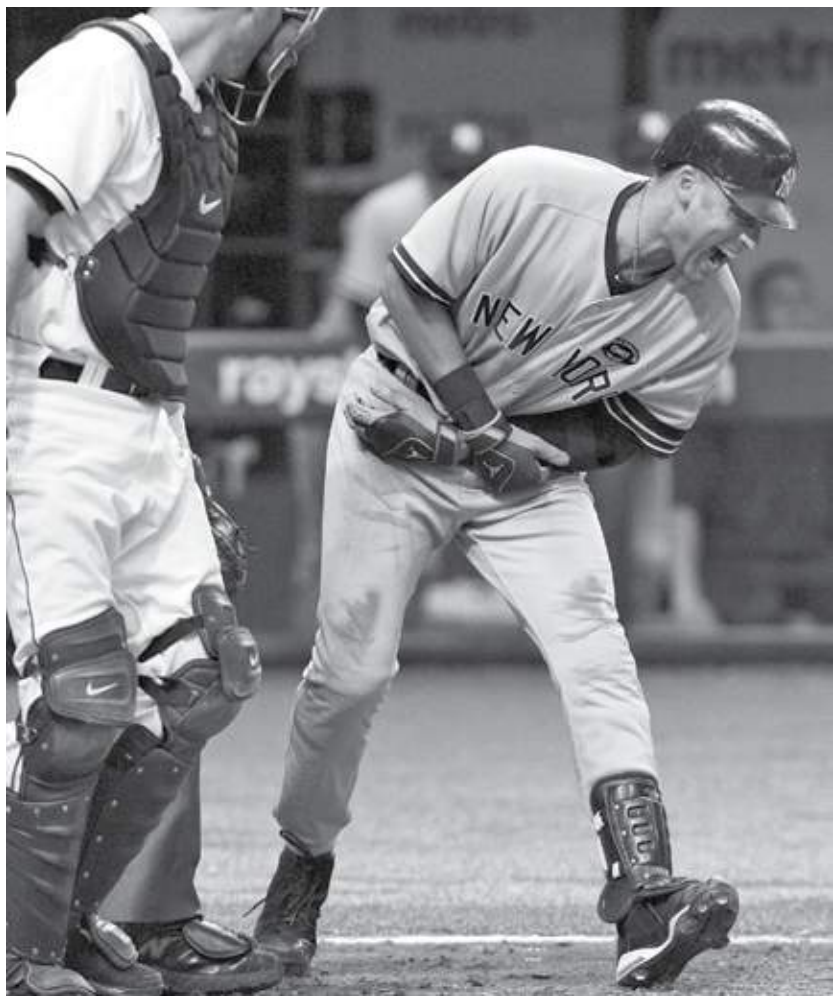
To his legion of admirers, Derek's deke was a savvy play. The bat flew, he spun around, doubled over and convinced the home-plate umpire he'd been plunked. He wound up scoring a key run in the seventh inning.

To Jeter's detractors, it was a cheap trick. Tampa Bay manager Joe Maddon argued so much he got ejected, though he praised Jeter after the Rays rallied past the Yankees 4-3 into first place in the AL East.

"There's several thespians throughout baseball," Maddon said. "I thought Derek did a great job, and I applaud it, because I wish our guys would do the same thing."

Both the Yankees and Rays were off Thursday, but Jeter Theater played throughout the majors.

On the Cincinnati Reds' telecast of their game against Arizona—a matchup with no direct connection to what occurred at Tropicana Field—there was a fan text poll with this question: Are you OK with the Derek Jeter play? Fans were split on whether it was gamesmanship or farce.



New York Yankees' Derek Jeter, right, screams after being hit with a seventh-inning pitch by Tampa Bay Rays reliever Chad Qualls during a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2010, in St. Petersburg, Fla. AP

Dodgers manager Joe Torre applauded Jeter.

"Hell, yeah, he did the right thing," Torre, Jeter's longtime manager with the Yankees, said in San Francisco. "It's not like running a red light. Stuff you can do out on the field, whether you can get away with it, it's not being immoral. We allow people to steal second base. Anything you can get away with is fine. To me, that's above board. It's not like he's loading his bat."

Batters often try to pretend they've been hit by pitches that just miss; it's something they're taught to do. But it usually takes them a split-second to start acting, and that rarely tricks the umps.

Jeter, however, got right in character, especially after the ball hit the bat and sent vibrations up his arm. He fooled home-plate umpire Lance Barksdale, then managed to sneak a peek to watch Maddon's dispute.

"What can you do? My job is to get on base. He said it hit me, so I'm not going to argue with him," Jeter said.

Jeter's impeccable reputation for fairness and honesty might have helped him sell the call. Next time, pleading his case might not be so easy.

A former World Series MVP, the 36-year-old Jeter currently is stuck in one of the worst slumps of his career. With his team trailing by a run, he would take anything.

"I've been hit before when they said it hit the bat. It goes both ways," he said.

While the four umpires huddled to discuss the call, Maddon was certain the ball had nicked Jeter's bat and rolled out near the pitcher's mound. Maddon told Qualls to retrieve the ball and throw to first base, to get Jeter out.

No chance.

"Nobody could tell me that the ball hit his hand, in any way, shape or form, or his wrist. But everybody could tell me that the ball hit the bat," Maddon said. "I really hoped the play would be reversed based on pure, pure logic."

No luck there, either.

"Basically it hit the knob and it was a fair ball, and he was out at first. That's all there is to it," Qualls said. "He's Derek Jeter, but you know what? It's still the game of baseball and he was out, and that's the play that should have been called."

Padres overtaken by Giants in NL West

ST. LOUIS (AP)—The San Diego Padres dropped out of the lead in the National League West after a 4-0 defeat by the St. Louis Cardinals on Thursday in the opener of a key four-game series.

St. Louis' Jake Westbrook (2-3) pitched eight scoreless innings in his longest outing since he was signed from Cleveland at the end of July.

The Cardinals got all four runs in the sixth inning, snapping a three-game skid and retaining faint hopes of a playoff spot, seven games off the NL Central lead and wild-card berth.

Padres starter Tim Stauffer (4-4) allowed four runs in five-plus innings.

Giants 10, Dodgers 2

In San Francisco, the hosts took over the NL West lead with a strong win over Los Angeles.

Aubrey Huff hit a three-run homer and Buster Posey had a solo shot.

Jonathan Sanchez (11-8) struck out a career-high 12 as the Giants took a half-game lead on the Padres. San Francisco is in sole possession of first place for the first time since May 6.

Dodgers starter Ted Lilly (8-11) was done after 3 1-3 innings for his shortest outing of the season.

Diamondbacks 3, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Rodrigo Lopez held the NL's top offense in check for seven innings, getting his first win in more than two months, and guiding Arizona past Cincinnati.

Lopez (6-14) gave up just one run while winning for the first time since July 8.

The Reds got another inconsistent start from Edinson Volquez (3-3), who yielded three runs in 6 2-3 innings.

Mets 6, Pirates 2

In New York, Mike Pelfrey earned his 15th win, pitching seven strong innings and hitting a tiebreaking single to help New York complete a four-game sweep of Pittsburgh.

Pelfrey (15-9) allowed two runs. He also put New York up 3-2 with a two-out single in the sixth off Wilfredo Ledezma (0-3). It was the Mets' first four-game sweep since June 2006.

Pittsburgh, with the worst record in baseball at 48-98, fell to 15-59 away from home.

Twins 8, White Sox 5

In Chicago, Delmon Young hit his 18th homer and Carl Pavano got his 17th win as the Minnesota Twins beat the Chicago White Sox to complete the three-game sweep.

Paul Konerko hit a solo homer in the third against Pavano (17-11) after being drilled in the face by a pitch in the first inning. A.J. Pierzynski and Alexei Ramirez also went deep, but the Twins walked away with their 11th win in 12 games.

Minnesota went 13-5 against the White Sox this season and lead them by nine in the AL Central with 16 games to play as it tries to lock down its sixth division title in 10 years.

Young hit a two-run homer off Mark Buehrle (12-11) in the fifth to make it 6-2.

Matt Capps worked the ninth for his 39th save overall and 13th in 15 chances since the Twins acquired him from Washington.

Buehrle surrendered six runs and eight hits in five innings. He has not won since beating Minnesota on Aug. 19.

Pavano wasn't much better but moved within one win of the career high he set with Florida in 2004. He yielded five runs and eight hits in five-plus innings.

Indians 3, Angels 2, 11 innings

At Cleveland, Trevor Crowe scored from third base on a two-out error by third baseman Alberto Callaspo, giving the Indians the victory.

Crowe doubled with one out in the 11th off Bobby Cassevah (0-1) and went to third on Drew Sutton's groundout.

Pinch-hitter Shelley Duncan then nubbed a ball that dropped onto the infield grass. Callaspo cut in front of shortstop Brandon Wood to field the ball, which slipped away from him as he went to make the throw.

Rafael Perez (5-1), Cleveland's sixth pitcher, worked the 11th for the win.

Mike Cowan in his 10th Ryder Cup

LEMONT, Ill. (AP)—Mike "Fluff" Cowan is going back to the Ryder Cup, a competition that has changed since he caddied in his first one 25 years ago at The Belfry.

The competition is as intense as ever. The biggest difference might be his suitcase.

"We got next to nothing back then—a couple of sweat shirts, I think," Cowan said. "We certainly get treated better than we did at my first one. Now we get all kinds of clothes. We fly over on the charter. They pay us nicely. Some guys say it isn't enough, but I think it's enough. The competition ... there's nothing like it."

No other American brings as much experience to the matches as Cowan, and few have seen so much through so many players. Jim Furyk, his current boss, will be the fourth player for whom Cowan has caddied at the Ryder Cup.

He was on the bag for Peter Jacobsen in 1985 at The Belfry and for Fred Couples four years later (Couples hired Joe LaCava the following season). Jacobsen returned to the Ryder Cup in 1995, and Cowan worked for Tiger Woods at Valderrama in 1997. This will be his fifth straight Ryder Cup working for Furyk.

The biggest regret is playing on only two winning teams—the comeback at Brookline in 1999, and last time at Valhalla.

His favorite memory was two years ago at Valhalla, when Furyk won the cup-clinching point on the 17th hole, the matching ending with a handshake when Miguel Angel Jimenez conceded Furyk a short par putt.

"It was a matter of circumstances, but having Jim actually be the clincher, that was pretty much a nice memory - a thrill," he said.

As for the worst?

Cowan went back to the 18th hole at The Belfry in 1989, when Couples was in a pivotal match against Christy O'Connor Jr. All square on the 18th, with Couples having blasted a 300-yard drive, O'Connor hit 2-iron to about 3 1/2 feet for a birdie he never had to putt.

"One of the most phenomenal shots in the history of the game," Cowan said. "Freddie had a 9-iron and flared it out to the right. I felt awful for him. That was probably my worst memory, although I got to witness one of the greatest shots in the history of the competition."

That wasn't the only stunning loss. Cowan was with Woods when the world's No. 1 player lost to Costantino Rocca in 1997. And he was with Furyk when Paul McGinley made a 6-foot par in 2002 at The Belfry to halve the match and give Europe the outright victory.

As for the most bizarre moment, consider a fourballs match between Jacobsen and Brad Faxon against Seve Ballesteros and David Gilford at Oak Hill in 1995.

Thinking that Faxon was in for par, Jacobsen rapped his long birdie putt about 4 feet beyond the hole and picked it up. Only then did he realize Faxon had taken a penalty drop from behind a willow tree in the fairway.

"That might be my worst memory, now that I think about it," Cowan said. "I don't even want to go into it."

But he'll go to Celtic Manor looking forward to these matches as much as he did 25 years ago.

"It's always been an intense competition," he said. "I guess just like the rest of the world of golf, it's gotten bigger. But it's the same intensity. The players treat it the same way."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	88	57	.607	_
New York	88	58	.603	1/2
Boston	82	64	.562	6 1/2
Toronto	73	73	.500	15 1/2
Baltimore	58	88	.397	30 1/2

Central Division

Minnesota	88	58	.603	_
Chicago	79	67	.541	9
Detroit	72	74	.493	16
Kansas City	60	85	.414	27 1/2
Cleveland	60	86	.411	28

West Division

Texas	82	63	.566	_
Oakland	72	73	.497	10
Los Angeles	71	75	.486	11 1/2
Seattle	55	91	.377	27 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	86	61	.585	ó
Atlanta	83	64	.565	3
Florida	73	72	.503	12
New York	74	73	.503	12
Washington	62	84	.425	23 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	83	64	.565	ó
St. Louis	75	70	.517	7
Houston	70	76	.479	12 1/2
Milwaukee	67	78	.462	15
Chicago	65	81	.445	17 1/2
Pittsburgh	48	98	.329	34 1/2

West Division

San Francisco	83	64	.565	ó
San Diego	82	64	.562	1/2
Colorado	80	66	.548	2 1/2
Los Angeles	72	75	.490	11
Arizona	59	88	.401	24

Yesterdayís Games

Arizona 3, Cincinnati 1
N.Y. Mets 6, Pittsburgh 2
St. Louis 4, San Diego 0
San Francisco 10, L.A. Dodgers 2
Cleveland 3, L.A. Angels 2, 11 innings
Minnesota 8, Chicago White Sox 5

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MAYWEATHER

From Page 28

than $20 million in May in one fight in Las Vegas against "Sugar" Shane Mosley

Mayweather remained free on $3,000 bail pending arraignment Nov. 9 following his arrest last Friday on a felony grand larceny charge.

Authorities alleged he took cell phones belonging to Harris and two of their children following the altercation. That felony charge carries a possible sentence of five years.

The new criminal complaint filed Thursday added two felony coercion and one felony robbery charge along with one misdemeanor domestic battery and three misdemeanor harassment charges.

Convictions on all eight charges would increase the possible penalty Mayweather could face if convicted of all charges to 34 years.

Mayweather's lawyer, Richard Wright, told The Associated Press he hadn't seen the new complaint and declined immediate comment.

Wright has previously denied wrongdoing on Mayweather's behalf.

Police initially labeled the scuffle with Harris a domestic battery case after she told police Mayweather was angry about her relationship with another man when he confronted her at the Las Vegas home where Harris and the children live.

Mayweather wanted to evict her from the house, which he owns, Harris said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ron Chisato, seen here in a file photo, won Thursday's Customer Appreciation 8-ball qualifying tournament at USS Peleliu Club.

Chisato tops USSP 8-ball

Ron Chisato came back through the loser's bracket to grab first place in Thursday's Customer Appreciation 8-ball qualifying tournament at USS Peleliu Club.

There is no entry fee for the tournaments, held on Thursdays and Sundays to fill the 16-player bracket for the Oct. 10 Columbus Day final and its $100 first prize. The winner gets a trophy from Pacific Amusement and a guaranteed spot in the final.

Simeon Kapileo, the winner of Sunday's qualifier, sent Chisato to the loser's bracket. He stormed back, eliminating Nizer Masayos, Tom Basa, and Annie Tesiro to earn his spot in the championship against winner's bracket top dog Leonard Sablan.

The wily veteran made Chisato work for both victories, hiding the cue ball and giving him tough shots. Chisato overcame several ball-in-hand opportunities for his opponent, taking the last game and the match on a difficult cross-corner bank-cut.

The Oct. 10 field will include qualifying champions like Kapileo and Chisato, joined by players who earn the most points for second, third, and fourth place finishes. The 16 finalists will also be "seeded" for their first game, with the points leaders starting off against opponents with the least points.

Chisato is the current leader with seven points, followed by Kapileo with five, Tesiro with four, and Sablan with three. Basa and Taylor Watanabe have each earned one point.

Sign-up begins at 7:30pm on Sundays and Thursdays. There is no charge.

Opponents are chosen by blind draw for the double elimination tournament. Play follows Billiard Congress of America rules.

The Oct. 10 winner will win $100, with $50 for the runner-up. Pacific Amusement awards trophies for first, second, and third place.

For more information, call Rose or Ken Phillips at 233-1984. ***(USSP)***

Yakau hangs on to lead in Ladies League

Yakau has a slight lead over D'Pirates Bar & Grill's Strikers in the Ladies Division of the Saipan Electronic Dart Association after beating Sande's Megatouch, 11-4, at home Monday night at Jonny's Bar.

Lois Blaluk, Ressie Takeda, and Frances Magofna won three of the four Singles 301 Double in/Double Out games to help Yakau jump out ahead early.

Then Yakau swept both Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket matches before both teams won a Partners 501 Double In/Double Out game.

Yakau's Blaluk, Magofna, Takeda, and Janice Camacho went on to sweep all four Singles Regular Cricket matches; Magofna's win clinched the automatic win. Then both teams won a game of Partners Baseball and Megatouch took the final Team 1001 Double In/Double Out match.

The win over Megatouch improve Yakau's win-loss record to 71-34, only a game ahead of Strikers (70-35).

Other results in the Ladies Division Monday saw Buddies Bar & Grill's Tipiyeew edge out Gaia's Lady Gagas on the road, 8-7; D'Pirates Bar & Grill's Mama Snipers shot down sister team Strikers at home, 9-6; and Buddies' Pink Panthers defeat USS Peleliu Club's Kmal Sechelim at home.

Notables last Monday include Kmal Sechelim's Polly Omechalng's High-In of 160 and the Strikers' Rufina Guevarra's High-Out of 124.

Right There! ahead in A Division

Over in the A Division, Buddies Bar & Grill's Right There! is in the lead with a 59-43 win-loss slate, followed by sister team Flying Dartsmen (57-45), while Buddies Bar & Grill's Locals, Charlie's Primos, and Naked Fish Boyz are all tied in third place with identical 65-54 records.

Games last Monday saw CK Destroyers beat Locals, 10-7; Bud Brothers throttle Vargas Snipers, 11-6; and Naked Fish Boyz strip Primos, 14-3.

Notables of the week include the CK Destroyer's Jeff Barit's High-In of 160 and Flying Dartsmen's Wilson Quiban's High-Out of 112. ***(Walter Sutherland)***

Salbahe Bros. lead in B League

Salbahe Brothers obliterated D'Pirates Bar & Grill's IDK 4, 11-4, at home at Buddies Bar & Grill's Tuesday night to improve to a league-leading 70-35 win-loss record in the Saipan Electronic Dart Association's B League.

Salbahe Brothers and IDK 4 won a pair of Singles 301 Double In/Double Out matches and a game of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket. Then the Salbahe Brothers turned it on sweeping both Partners 501 Double in/Double Out games before team members Jojo Guilas, Renato Barros, Vehr Maducdoc, and Ernie Domingo swept all four Singles Regular Cricket matches; Maducdoc's win gave them the automatic win. Then both teams won a Partners Baseball game and the Salbahe crew took the final Team 1001 Double in/Double match.

Other B League matches Tuesday saw D'Pirates Bar & Grill's B-Destroyers nip Tijuana Mexican Restaurant's MixBlood Shooters, 8-7, at home; Sande's Naughty Boyz win on the road against Buddies Bar & Grill's McJudystar, 8-7; and Jonny's Bar & Grill's Samurai upset Buddies and Bar Grill's Fantastic, 9-6, at home. ***(Walter Sutherland)***

MISO

From Page 28

have been doing well in practice. There are high expectations from the team and we are looking forward to seeing them play in the finals," said Mili Saiki, office manager for SIS, which started competing in MISO last season, joining the boys and girls volleyball.

"Hopefully next season, we can also field a boys team in the basketball competition," Saiki added.

In the MISO girls league, the Lady Dolphins, Lady Ayuyus, Lady Rays, and Lady Geckos will play in a double-round robin regular season to determine the seeding in the playoffs. Tinian will then join these four teams in the playoff round, which will have a double-elimination format.

"Tinian will automatically receive a 'middle seed' rather than come into the league in last place," Gross said.

Tinian will get the No. 3 seeding and will debut in the league against the No. 4 squad. The pennant champion will get a bye in the first round of the playoffs, while the No. 2 and 5 teams will duel in the first-round pairing. The first round of the playoffs is set for Nov. 19, while the championship game is scheduled for Nov. 20.

In the opening day next month, Kagman High School will take on MHS. It will be a rematch of last year's finals.

The Lady Ayuyus defeated the Lady Dolphins in the finals, 56-47, giving Kagman its third straight varsity championship. MHS swept the regular season last year, downing KHS twice before losing in the most important game.

The first five games of the MISO girls caging this season will involved only KHS, MHS, and Southern, as SIS needs to finish first the volleyball competition in the Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association. The Lady Geckos will debut in the league on Oct. 27 against the Lady Rays.

Varsity games will be played at 6pm or 10 minutes after the first match in the junior varsity division. The junior varsity category will have only three teams—Kagman, Southern, and MHS.

BALAKRISHNA

From Page 28

Edward Manibusan had the most birdies of he day, shooting 1-under par in holes No. 13, 14, and 16 as well as outdriving everyone in hole No. 11. The retired Superior Court presiding judge also took the closest to the pin in hole No. 8 and finished with a net 68, good for third overall

Like Balakrishna, Rick Kautz also birdied two holes—6 and 7—en route to netting an 81. Rosario and Joe Demapan started the birdies early when they both birdied hole No. 1.

Rosario finished with the aforementioned lowest net of the day, a 64; while Demapan tied Manibusan's low net score of 68, but placed fourth after bogeying hole No. 17.

Ray San Nicolas and Martin Sablan both birdied hole No. 5, followed by John Babauta who birdied hole No. 12 and outdrove everyone in hole No. 3. San Nicolas netted a 71, Sablan a 74, and Babauta a 77.

The September win for Balakrishna allows him to join Rosario (January), Edward Sablan (February), Mariano Fajardo (March), Larry Deleon Guerrero (April), Steve Jang (May), Jung Teack (June), Jose Sablan (July), and Martin Sablan (August) for the season-ending SG Ace of Aces Tournaments.

SGA members netted a minimum score of 64 and maximum 86 in the September tourney with Jung Taeck netting a 70, SGA treasurer Joe Sablan a 71, Ed Sablan a 72, Tinian Mayor Ray Dela Cruz a 75, Joe Deleon Guerrero a 75, SGA secretary Frances Sablan a 78, SGA president Ben Aldan a 78, Art Deleon Guerrero an 80, Das Krishnan an 83, and Frank Rosario an 86. Art Deleon Guerrero also took the closest to the pin prize in hole No. 6. The next SGA monthly tournament is scheduled in October. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

3 COURSES

From Page 28

tank, the back side of the Marianas Country Club, Suicide Cliff, and Kimikaze, Autobahn, Grotto, and Banzai trails.

The road course will also begin and finish at Paupau Beach, but bikers will head straight to Suicide Cliff, Bird Island, Grotto, and Banzai. The road race will be a good warm-up for the Hell of Marianas, which will utilize the uphill and downhill roads for the December race.

The duathlon for kids will have participants riding three loops around the Paupau Beach parking lot and running (between 500m to 1K) along the shore.

Registration time is at 6:30am, while races will begin at 7am. Entrance fee is only $10 for adults and $5 for kids. Prizes await the top finishers in each division.

All proceeds from next month's races will be used to augment funds for Carey's trip to Maui, Hawaii.

The Saipan triathlete will be going to Hawaii third week of October to represent the CNMI in the 2010 XTERRA World Championship. The biggest off-road triathlon race of the year will kick hit the road on Oct. 24 and will feature triathletes from 20 countries and 5-0 states.

Carey qualified for XTERRA World after a third-place finish in the 2010 XTERRA Saipan Championship. It will be her second time to join XTERRA World as a pro.

She is heading to Hawaii next month after two morale-boosting wins in the summer. Last month, Carey won two gold medals (individual and team) in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau and a few weeks later, she topped XTERRA Japan for the second straight time.

Yankee sleight of hand: Derek deke? Jeter cheater?

Page 26

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Storm hold off Dream 87-84 to win 2nd WNBA title

Page 25

MISO welcomes SIS, Tinian

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2010-2011 season of the MISO Girls Basketball League will open next month with two new teams—the Saipan International School and Tinian High School.

"We are really excited to have SIS joining our league this year and are looking forward to having Tinian High involved in most if not all of our end of season tournaments," said Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization acting president Nick Gross.

"It should be a fantastic year of MISO athletics again," he added.

The MISO girls caging will kick off on Oct. 4 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium with SIS Lady Geckos joining the three regular varsity teams from MHS, Kagman High School, and Saipan Southern High School.

"We are thrilled to compete in the girls basketball. Our players

See MISO on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan International School's Maya Oestreich, right, and Mt. Carmel's Nicole Lebria battle for the ball during their title game in the girls high school division of the private school caging last season at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. This year, SIS is joining the MISO league and will be playing against Kagman, Marianas High School, and Saipan Southern High School.

Mayweather hit with more felony charges in Las Vegas

BOXING

LAS VEGAS (AP)— Undefeated boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. was hit Thursday with three more felony charges in a domestic violence case that already had him facing a theft charge.

Clark County District Attorney David Roger significantly raised the ante in the case alleging that Mayweather hit and threatened the life of his ex-girlfriend, Josie Harris, and threatened to beat two of their children during a pre-dawn argument at the woman's home a week ago.

Mayweather, 33, is one of boxing's most recognizable figures, with a record of 41-0 and 25 knockouts. The welterweight goes by the nickname "Money" and earned more

See MAYWEATHER on Page 27

AP

This Sept. 10, 2010, file photo shows boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr., exiting the Clark County Detention Center after posting bail on a grand larceny charge stemming from a domestic violence complaint, in Las Vegas.

Balakrishna tops SGA September Ace

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Steve Balakrishna, standing eighth from left, won the Saipan Golfers Association September Ace of the Month last Sunday at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Steve Balakrishna came away with a net score of 67 to win the Saipan Golfers Association's Ace of the Month Tournament last Sunday at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

The Pacific Islands Club Saipan F&B manager shot back-to-back birdies in holes No. 14 and 15 as well as collected greenies in holes No. 12 and 15 to win the monthly championship against 17 other golfers.

Vince Rosario actually fired the lowest score of the day with his net 64, but he already won the January Ace and was ineligible to win anymore monthly tournaments for the year.

See BALAKRISHNA on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Cyclists who took part in Mieko Carey's Micro Games fundraiser are seen in this file photo. Carey will be hosting her XTERRA fundraiser on Oct. 3.

3 courses for Mieko XTERRA fundraiser

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Participants in the Mieko XTERRA fundraiser will get to choose from three courses offered in the Oct. 3 races.

Host Mieko Carey will have an MTB and road course, and a duathlon course for kids. The MTB course will start and end at Paupau Beach with bikers heading to the water

See 3 COURSES on Page 27